

Treaty signing site ready

AMMAN (J.T.) — The site that will host the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty north of Aqaba is almost ready, President of the Aqaba Region Authority Fayez Al Khasawneh said Saturday. Dr. Khasawneh, who is also acting Aqaba governor, said a 14-kilometre area was prepared to host the ceremony, and in addition work on preparing a parking lot that can accommodate 2,000 cars and a landing area for six helicopters was finished. He said the road linking the site with Aqaba was also bedecked with flags and banners. The treaty will be signed in front of U.S. President Bill Clinton and a host of other guests on the Israeli-Jordanian border near Aqaba. President Clinton will not address the Jordanian Parliament when he visits the Kingdom to attend the signing, a senior official said. "There are no plans for President Clinton to address the Jordanian Parliament," the Jordanian official told AFP, asking not to be named.

Jordan Times

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Hamas threatens more attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Hamas group warned Saturday it would unleash more violence if Israel made good on threats to go after their activists. However, possibly indicating a respite, Hamas said Wednesday's bus bombing was the last of five acts of revenge it had promised following the Feb. 25 massacre of Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler at a shrine in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said he will retaliate for Hamas's attacks. He has scaled off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and has increased funding for the security service charged with tracking down Palestinian militants. In a statement sent to news organisations Saturday, Hamas warned Mr. Rabin "against trying to hurt the sons of a defenceless people." It said "our response will be like a bolt of lightning." Hamas also said attacks on Israelis would continue unless Mr. Rabin released Hamas's spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and other Muslim fundamentalist detainees. Mr. Rabin has said he will not free the ailing Yassin. The statement said that if Mr. Rabin blew up the homes of activists, a common punishment for anti-Israeli violence, Hamas would blow up Jewish homes.

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King: Jordan wants Arab solidarity but a new formula needed for coordination

His Majesty opens second regular session of 12th Parliament
Treaty with Israel returns all of Jordan's rights ● Kingdom committed to supporting other Arabs to regain their full rights ● Jordan will not relinquish role in Jerusalem under all circumstances ● Economy is performing well ● Government is geared towards development

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday the peace treaty initiated by Jordan and Israel provides for the return to the Kingdom of its territorial and water rights and that the government would present it to Parliament after its formal signing this week.

The King, in a traditional speech from the Throne opening the regular session of Parliament, also said the treaty did not mean any deviation from Jordan's commitment to Arab coordination and pledged that the Kingdom help the other Arab parties involved in peace talks with Israel regain their full rights.

King Hussein, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, reaffirmed that he would not relinquish his historic role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in

Jerusalem.

In an obvious reference to the recent crisis in the Gulf triggered by an Iraqi military buildup near the borders of Kuwait, the King reiterated that Jordan is deeply concerned over the suffering of the people of Iraq, but it would not tolerate any threat to the security and sovereignty of any Arab country.

Referring to the divisions and differences among Arab countries, the Monarch said Jordan stood ready to pursue its efforts to restore Arab solidarity. "It is time that this (Arab and Islamic) nation rises from its doldrums and overcome the stagnation that has affected its progress as well as the denial and listlessness which have affected it," the King said.

On Jordan's peace accord with Israel, the King told the joint session of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament: "This treaty provides

for the restoration of Jordan's full rights to its land and waters, for the delineation and demarcation of permanent international borders between the two states and for exploring the potentials of cooperation in the various fields in accordance with agreements to be reached later."

The King said the treaty "has affirmed the comprehensiveness of peace on all fronts, and that it should be just and sustainable."

"It has also highlighted Jordan's distinguished role and its significant and central location in the region," he said, adding that the treaty "will enable Jordan to tackle its basic problems, particularly those of poverty, unemployment, water and electricity."

The King said the treaty, which is scheduled to be signed on Wednesday in a ceremony in the south on the

Jordanian-Israeli border, would be presented to Parliament "in a draft law to proceed with the constitutional procedures of the ratification of the treaty."

The King, in an implicit reference to criticism that Jordan did not wait for its Arab partners in the peace process before concluding a treaty with Israel, described the agreement as heralding the "beginning of a new era leading to comprehensive peace embracing the entire region."

"We will support all our Arab brethren in the other tracks to regain their full rights," he said. "We will continue to be advocates of coordination with all our Arab brethren..."

But he said the Jordanian position in this context would be based on its independent decision, "free from hegemony, or the denial of roles." This appeared to be an impli-

cit reference to Jordan's experience in coordinating its position with Syria when it found itself coming under Syrian efforts to dominate the scene.

The King pledged to seek better relations with all Arab and Islamic countries and "open the horizons of cooperation with friendly countries in the best possible way which would serve our joint interests and help us cope with the circumstances and the requirements of the future."

See pages six and seven for full text of the speech from the Throne

"We would like to underline the significance of transcending the past with all its wounds and to rise up to the level of inter-Arab political action," said the King in a reference to the Gulf crisis. "Out of the clarity of our

Pan-Arab vision and the constancy and durability of the Jordanian position, we have declared that we are absolutely against the use of arms again among Arabs under all circumstances," the King said.

"We have also declared that Arab arms should not be used against Arabs and that Jordan will not hesitate to oppose any Arab party that will violate this principle."

On Jerusalem, the King noted that Jordan had relinquished its role in Islamic and Awqaf affairs of the West

Bank but retained its custodianship of the shrines in the Holy City.

"We have done so out of our eagerness to neutralise the differences that have

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His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday opens a new annual session of Parliament (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Srouf elected speaker in close first-round voting

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Independent Deputy Sa'd Hayel Srouf was Saturday elected speaker of the Lower House of Parliament after defeating his only competitor, Islamist-backed Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat, in the first round of balloting.

Mr. Srouf, a former minister and two-time deputy from the Northern Beqda district, won 41 votes compared to the 36 votes which his rival from Irbid secured. Seventy-nine out of the 80 deputies took part in the voting which also produced one blank and one unclear ballot.

Former Speaker Taher Al Masri, who withdrew his candidacy for the speakership last week, was absent from the session, having accompanied his wife abroad for medical treatment.

Mr. Srouf, who hails from an influential northern tribe, was backed by centrist deputies who support the peace treaty which Jordan and Israel will sign next week.

Parliamentary sources said Mr. Srouf, 47, was supported by the majority of the 12-member National Democratic Coalition to which he belongs, the 10-member National Bloc, many of the 20 members of the National Action Front as well as other independent deputies.

tary post.

The IAF suffered another defeat later on in the opening session, when its candidate for the first deputy speaker, Abdul Rahim Al Akour, lost to National Action Front leader Abdul Hadi Majali.

Mr. Majali (Karak), who is a former army chief of staff and ambassador to Washington, won in a second round of balloting, receiving 42 votes compared to the 34 Mr. Akour won. In the first round, neither of the candidates received the 41 votes required, with Mr. Majali winning 36 votes compared to the 39 Mr. Akour received.

Dr. Tbeishat, who is also a former minister and a supporter of the peace process, had relied on the backing of a group of 13 independent deputies and the support of other independents in addition to the IAF's.

Immediately after assuming the speakership of the House, Mr. Srouf said he would fulfill his responsibilities in compliance with the Constitution, the principles of democracy and the National Charter.

Mr. Srouf also made clear his support for the peace process which he described as a strategic choice for Jordan and pledged allegiance to His Majesty King Hussein "who is leading us to a bright future and to the making of history."

"I will be the mouthpiece of every one of you in truth and I will be the arm of each one of you in achieving justice," Mr. Srouf told his colleagues.

Mr. Srouf described the Jordanian society as one of the closest societies to true Islam, urging his colleagues to protect Jordan and "improve coordination" among the three branches of government while safeguarding the independence of the legislative branch and the judiciary.

"The fourth estate, the press," he said, should also be allowed to maintain its freedom to practise its role with professionalism and responsibility.

The new House speaker also called for maintaining national unity and coherence at a time when, he said, they are being targeted by many who wish harm to the country.

"Across the river, we look to the unity of blood, history, geography and interests," said Mr. Srouf, emphasising the sacrifices which he said Jordan made for the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Srouf also called for improved inter-Arab relations, saying the House has enough credibility to work out a parliamentary mechanism for working to end Arab differences.

IAF members, who had argued that the speaker of the House should come from their ranks because they are the largest bloc in the legislature, said they accepted the decision of the majority and will work with Mr. Srouf as long as he upholds democratic values. "We will cooperate with (Mr. Srouf) in every way possible as long as he abides by democratic values. He is one of us," IAF spokesman Hamzeh



Sa'd Hayel Srouf

Mansour told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Srouf promised that much to his colleagues when he said, "I will work in accordance with the constitution, the National Charter and stand by every colleague in what corresponds to the internal regulations of the House."

Influential deputy Abdul Kareem Al Kabarti, who led Mr. Srouf's campaign, said the election of Mr. Srouf "is a victory for democracy and for the centrist trend in the house, which reflects the position of the house at this point."

Mr. Kabarti said he believed Mr. Srouf was qualified to lead the House, relying on his experience as a member of the consultative council (which preceded parliament in the 1980s) and the House for two terms and on his "good" relations with all ideologies in the legislature.

During the session, Mr. Talal Obeidat (Bani Kananeh District in the north) was elected second deputy speaker by acclamation. Mohammed Huneiti (Amman's 4th district) and Fawaz Zu'bi (Ramtha) were also elected by acclamation as first and second assistant speakers respectively.

The House also elected a 14-member committee to prepare the response to the speech from the throne.

Lawzi urges Senate to prepare for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), Ahmad Al Lawzi, said Saturday Jordan had embarked on a new phase in its history with the signing of the peace treaty with Israel to end the conflict in the region.

The new stage requires from Parliament to realise the far-reaching dimensions of peace and embark on modernising the state through the

modernisation of its laws and legislation," Mr. Lawzi said. Parliament should promote the work of state institutions and mobilise the people's potentials towards achieving development and ensuring an investment climate that would cater to the Kingdom's needs at all levels," he said in an address delivered to the Senate, which met after His Majesty King Hussein had delivered the speech from the

Throne opening Parliament. "Under the Hashemite leadership Jordan would play a more essential and prominent role in the coming peace era and in light of the ongoing developments at the regional and international levels," Mr. Lawzi said.

The new parliamentary session assumes importance in view of the peace treaty with Israel which has put an end to half a century of wars

sufferings and hostilities. Mr. Lawzi said, stressing that the peace treaty would ensure the return of the Jordanian rights in land and water resources.

The Senate ended Saturday's session by electing a committee to prepare the reply to the speech from the Throne. The committee groups Taher Hikmat, Nasereddin Al Assad and Jawdat Shoul.

Opponents and proponents of peace accord draw clear lines in Parliament

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday gave a clear indication of where the majority of its members stand on the peace process in the first meeting of its second ordinary session by defeating two bids by the Islamists to assume leadership positions at the legislature and electing a pro-peace speaker.

So did the House's minority make clear the headline policy it will follow in the four-month session, when six members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) boycotted the opening session which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein.

All indications are that the various political shades in the legislature are heading for a tough confrontation over the peace process though parliamentary sources say that the peace proponents will have the upper hand.

The election of centrist Deputy Sa'd Hayel Srouf as speaker of the House is a victory for the centrist trend which is the domi-

nant power in the legislature, influential Deputy Abdul Kareem Kabarti (Aqaba) said.

And the absence of six deputies from the opening session was definitely "connected to the peace process," IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour, who was among the absent lawmakers, told the Jordan Times.

"Those who attended the session studied their decision. Those who did not also studied their decision," he said.

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Islamist lawmakers, who were also kept away from the position of the first deputy speaker, with their candidate losing to the head of centrist and pro-peace Al Ahd Party, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, seemed aware of their inability to influence the position of the House but stressed that this will not stop them from "fighting the peace treaty with all the power we have."

Parliamentary sources say the opponents of the peace process, who include some leftist and pan-Arabist deputies in addi-

tion to the IAF, will be able to cause the government a lot of headache but will not be able to block the peace treaty.

The sources say that the peace treaty will be approved by 55-60 deputies when the government presents it to Parliament for ratification as a draft law. But they say the ratification will not take place before the Islamists launch virulent attacks against it.

The attacks will be meant to state a position rather than change the course of events, analysts say. Parliament will provide the Islamists with a forum in which they can speak as strongly as they could against the peace process after a long period in which they said the government blocked their views from reaching the people, they said.

Mr. Mansour agrees that Parliament will "provide a very good opportunity" for the IAF to express its views.

"We will employ all constitutional and democratic means to fight the treaty," Mr. Mansour said, adding that Parliament will be only one of the arenas in which they will launch their cam-

paign against the treaty. But if the government "denies us the democratic channels for expressing our position, all our options will be open," he said.

These options, according to Mr. Mansour and other Islamist leaders, include withdrawal from Parliament.

"The democratic process has been reversed to dangerous proportions," contended Mr. Mansour, warning that if the government tries to "encroach more on the democratic process, the Islamists will respond through all available means."

"We will fight the treaty in Parliament, as a party and on the people's level," he said.

Though the legislature will not include the treaty on its agenda until it is formally presented to it by the government, the IAF deputies have shown enough signs that the peace process is their major priority at the current session of the House.

When Mr. Srouf spoke of the peace treaty during his victory speech Saturday, IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush, (Zarqa) im-

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Proponents and opponents of peace accord draw clear lines

(Continued from page 1)

mediately took the floor and demanded that the speaker not mention the treaty.

IAF leaders say that while they will do everything they can to block the ratification of the treaty, their focus will also be on fighting legislation that will be necessitated by it in the future.

That includes any legislation to make it illegal to speak of Arab rights in historical Palestine, a fear that IAF hawkish member Hammam Said believes is realistic.

Countering the Islamists will be those centrist deputies who will insist that the treaty serves the interests of the Kingdom and falls in line with its declared stands and principles.

Those deputies will argue that the treaty was concluded in terms that satisfy

the Kingdom's demands for its rights in land and water and was reached after the Palestinians went their own way in negotiating peace with Israel.

Mr. Sour emphasised this point Saturday when he said Jordan has given all the support it could give to the Palestinians and noted the Palestine Liberation Organisation's choice to act as the only representative of the Palestinian people and negotiate with Israel on its own.

Being the majority in the House as the election of the speaker and his deputies proved Saturday, those deputies will have their view prevail and the government can sit relaxed that the treaty will be ratified, parliamentary sources said.

One opinion in the House was that opposition of the Islamists could be

reduced by bringing them into the system through giving them leadership positions in the House in order to remove the feeling that they are marginalised. But this view did not seem to carry enough weight as the elections for the deputy speaker in fact showed.

At any rate, "there will be no hurdles in the face of ratifying the treaty," said Mr. Kabarti.

Until that happens, however, indications are that other duties of the House will take a back seat. The Islamists will try to prolong the debate as long as they can. The pro-peace deputies will try to shorten it as much as they can. With a majority of treaty supporters who have the speaker on their side, the centrist stand a good chance to prevail.

King opens Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

appeared in the numerous decisions and statements of officials of the Palestinian authority, after we have been informed of the harassment of the officials there," the King said.

"We have declared our full desire to keep the holy sites in Jerusalem under our religious custody which we are doing on behalf of the nation," the King said. "Jerusalem is the symbol of permanent peace among the believers and the sanctuary of their hearts. We will never relinquish our religious responsibilities towards the holy sites under all circumstances."

Any relinquishing of the Hashemite role in Jerusalem, the King said, would lead to a vacuum that could "cause the loss of these holy sites and tampering with the immortal heritage of this nation."

"Jerusalem will continue to be the most precious place and the jewel of peace," said the King. "Our relationship with Jerusalem will continue

to be larger than imagined by those who do not know our history in the Holy City. It is a relationship based on the faith, prophecy, history and martyrdom."

On the internal front, the King pledged to continue the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom. "The foundations of this process are strongly laid on the principles of right, freedom and justice. It is also based on pluralism and the respect of all opinions, free from fanaticism, extremism or inflexibility."

The King said the government had focused on ensuring the rule of the law and justice for the people and supporting the Armed Forces and security departments.

He reaffirmed the government's support for the courts of law and judges, ensuring their independence.

The King, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, pledged that the government would provide the Armed Forces and security departments with the "means to develop their capabilities and competence commensurate with the accelerating developments in the world."

The King said Jordan's economy was performing well and said the gross domestic product was to grow by 5.5 per cent this year.

The government would press ahead with the economic restructuring and fiscal reform programme, he said. The economic performance so far, he said, was the result of a series of corrective measures adopted by the government with the objective of rationalisation of spending, increasing revenues, maintaining the general level of prices and modernising fiscal and tax legislation.

Appropriate legislation was in the making to encourage investments in Jordan, including the Amman Stock Market, and encourage savings, he said.

The King referred to the foreign exchange reserve problems faced by the Central Bank of Jordan early this year and said the problem was overcome.

The King said the government had managed to reduce the burdens of servicing foreign debts through the cancellation of parts of the debts and the rescheduling of others as well as through



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali congratulates Sa'd Hayel Sour upon his election as speaker of the Lower House

buy-backs at discounted rates. He noted that Jordan had rescheduled \$895 million of debts owed to the London Club and reached agreement with the Paris Club and other creditors to reschedule another \$1.340 billion.

The government would continue to give a high profile role for the private sector as also restructuring some state-owned commercial entities, the King said.

The King also pledged to continue to build infrastructure and support services in the various sectors, including education, health and social development.

King Hassan II pledges full ties with Israel in the future

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — King Hassan II of Morocco pledged Friday in his first interview with the Israeli media that Israel and Morocco would in the future enjoy full diplomatic ties.

Speaking in Arabic, he told Israeli Television: "There is no doubt that the path to peace that we have taken will end with a normalisation of relations between Israel and Morocco."

"But I cannot give a precise timescale. To preserve its central role in the peace process, Morocco must not rush the stages. It has to stay in the centre, continue to respect its Arab brothers, respect Israel and the rest of the nations of the globe," he told Israeli journalist Ehud Yaari.

Israel and Morocco announced on Sept. 1 they were to open liaison bureaux in Rabat and Tel Aviv in a first step towards full diplomatic relations after 20 years of secret contacts. Both sides have since appointed the heads of the bureaux.

Morocco is also the first Arab country to open a liaison office in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip. The Kingdom became only the second Arab country after Egypt to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Asked about a future visit to occupied Jerusalem, the

king replied "everything in its own time."

"But when the time comes, and I ask that it comes as quickly as possible, I will visit it."

"I am ready to listen to any proposal, any vision which will allow us to solve the problem of Jerusalem, taking into consideration equality between the religions and sensitive points," King Hassan II said, adding that the time to tackle the Jerusalem question was at the end of the peace process.

He also condemned the Tel Aviv suicide bombing on Wednesday which killed 22 people, including the Hamas bomber.

"The attack was not a surprise. Peace is the goal of the most noble. I knew it would come up against obstacles. Innocents have paid the price."

"It is a crime not only against the innocents but also against peace. The Arabs have to be given back what belongs to them and allow Israel to live in security."

The king also warmly addressed the 600,000 Israelis of Moroccan origin living in Israel saying he continued to think of them as "Moroccan citizens in everything."

"We will never stop a Moroccan Jew from visiting his family or from praying at the tomb of his fathers."

Three months of negotiations were needed to bring about the interview which was filmed in Rabat with a large number of the king's ministers and advisors taking part.

Since the start of diplomatic ties, thousands of Moroccan Jews have taken advantage of the opening of the borders to return to their birthplace.

The broadcast was another sign of the Arab world's growing acceptance of Israel after the signing of the autonomy accord with the Palestinians and the draft peace agreement with Jordan.

"I will say that if not for the peace process, I would not have had this opportunity to talk to the Israelis... it was the peace, or peace process that opened this channel to us," King Hassan said.

"We will continue on this path so that there will be no need for television," added the king, who assured Israelis who immigrated from Morocco that their Moroccan citizenship remained intact.

King Hassan's appearance was greeted warmly and with enthusiasm by Israelis of Moroccan descent.

"I am very proud and happy that the king spoke in such a respectful, sensitive and warm manner, and it is not secret that he stood for a long time behind all the poli-



King Hassan II

tical contacts between us and Arabs," said Shlomo Bar, a musician who has championed the cause of Moroccan-descended Jews.

Israel TV's Yaari presented the king with a book of photographs showing pictures of the holy sites in Jerusalem taken from the air. King Hassan, who heads the Organisation of Islamic Conference's Committee on Jerusalem, paged through the book with interest.

Israeli media has speculated that King Hassan decided on the joint liaison offices to assure himself a role in determining the future of the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Morocco is also planning to host a Middle East economic cooperation conference in October with the participation of most countries in the region, including Israel, and thousands of companies.

Some Hamas money coming from the U.S.

The Associated Press

SOME MONEY that bank-rolls Hamas' militant campaign against Israel comes from a network of sympathisers in the United States, American officials say.

But while the Israeli government deems the fundraising a threat — and has pledged to cut it off at the source — law enforcement authorities doubt the money provides the movement's lifeline or goes to its most militant activists.

It is more likely that Hamas' financing originates with religious foundations in Saudi Arabia and the Iranian government, both eager to see a further erosion of support for the group's secular rival, Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

U.S. officials say other sources include fundamentalist groups in Egypt, Sudan and Jordan, which share Hamas' rejection of peace-making with Israel.

The question of Hamas' funding arose Thursday when Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel would try to block donations to Hamas from the United States, Britain, Iran and other countries, following the bus bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 21 people.

Mr. Shahal said American charities for Hamas were centred in Chicago and Texas, but gave no other detail.

In Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno said the FBI would "take appropriate action based on any efforts to fund terrorism." She did not elaborate.

"There is recruitment and training (by Hamas) here,"

Malcolm Hoehnlein, the executive vice president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, said in New York on Wednesday.

Israeli Consul General Colette Avital told a news conference in New York on Wednesday that since 1987 Israeli intelligence was aware of Hamas members in New York and Chicago and had informed U.S. authorities.

U.S. Representative Charles Schumer, addressing a rally Wednesday by Jewish organisations outside the Iranian mission to the United Nations, said Hamas supporters in the United States could face up to 10 years in prison under the new federal anti-crime act if they knowingly fund or train members of "terrorist" organisations.

But Sabri Ibrahim, a spokesman for the Council of

Islamic Organisations of Greater Chicago, said Thursday that Muslims were being defamed by unfounded allegations from Israel and biased U.S. news reports.

"I don't know anything about any Muslim organisation that sends money for any violent acts in the Middle East, and I know our organisations," Mr. Ibrahim said. His group includes more than 40 Muslim organisations in the Chicago area, representing more than 200,000 of the area's 300,000 Muslims.

"The American media have just taken the statements of the Israelis and they are putting them at the beginning of every newscast," he said. "They are defaming Muslims, showing them as terrorists, as violent people, showing them in every bad way."

Abu Nidal sentenced in absentia

ROME (R) — A Rome court on Friday sentenced extremist Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Nidal in his absence to six years in prison in connection with attacks in Rome in the 1980s, judicial sources said. Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, was at the time the head of the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC). He was one of seven people the court convicted of complicity in guerrilla attacks in Italy in the 1980s. Five people, including an Italian, were acquitted. Nearly all of them were tried in their absence. Abu Nidal was convicted of having been one of the masterminds behind the attacks. One was a grenade attack against tourists at the Cafe de Paris on Rome's crowded Via Veneto on Sept. 16, 1985 which injured some 40 people. Another attack for which members of Abu Nidal's group were convicted at the trial was the shooting of a diplomat from the United Arab Emirates in Rome in October 1984.

Turkish researchers say smuggled uranium not enriched

ISTANBUL (AP) — The head of a Turkish nuclear research centre on Friday denied that uranium recently seized from an Azerbaijan could be turned into an atom bomb. Undercover police agents Wednesday seized 750 grammes of uranium and arrested the Azerbaijani who tried to sell it to them for \$60,000. Professor Fahri Borak, the head of Istanbul's Cukceme nuclear research centre, said it was natural uranium with a market value of about \$30. The semi-official Anatolia news agency had reported Thursday that Mr. Borak's centre had identified the material as enriched U-238, a type used in nuclear weapons. According to Mr. Borak there have been about a dozen similar cases in the past year. "In none of the cases was it enriched uranium. It was found to be either natural or depleted uranium with almost no market value," Mr. Borak told the Associated Press.

Hungary protests attacks on diplomats in Iran

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary has voiced concern to Iran over the safety of its diplomats in Tehran after a string of recent crimes which left one woman dead and a man seriously hurt, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday. A ministry statement carried by the MTI news agency said the attacks were disrupting the work of the Hungarian mission. The house of Hungary's consul in Tehran was burgled on Wednesday, three weeks after the charge d'affaires was robbed. Last month, intruders severely beat the commercial counsellor, Jozsef Nagy, and killed his wife, the statement.

Icon of Virgin Mary welcomes in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — A revered icon of the Virgin Mary was welcomed with the pomp and ceremony usually accorded to a visiting head of state when it arrived Friday from Mount Athos, in Greece. Greek Orthodox Archbishop Chrysostomos and President Glafcos Clerides, as well as bishops, cabinet ministers and hundreds of citizens were at the airport to welcome the holy relic. A military band played the national anthem and a guard of honour presented arms as the gold-braided icon was carried on a special trestle along a red carpet from the plane to the airport VIP lounge. The arrival of the icon, depicting the Virgin with the infant Christ in her arms, was reported live by Cyprus radio and television stations. This is only the fourth time in over one thousand years that the relic has been taken on a visit outside the borders of the autonomous monastic community of Mount Athos in northern Greece. Thousands of Greek Cypriots are expected to pay homage to the icon during its 10-day visit, and pray to the Virgin for the end of Turkey's occupation of the island's northern third.

France cracks down on 'illegal' Algerians

PARIS (R) — France and Algeria have signed a confidential agreement making it easier for French authorities to

expel illegal Algerian immigrants, the newspaper Le Monde said on Friday. Government officials confirmed an accord had been signed on the subject earlier this year. "This accord does exist. These are technical agreements which we sign with a great number of countries and they are never published," a spokesman for the foreign ministry said. Another official would not go into the details of the text but he confirmed that the aim was, as Le Monde reported, to make expulsion from France an easier process. Le Monde said the agreement closed a loophole under which would-be immigrants who hid their identity papers or lied about their nationality could avoid expulsion orders. Algerian authorities had accepted individuals expelled from France only if both their identity and Algerian nationality was established within a 10-day legal deadline. Le Monde said the agreement gave French authorities more leeway to establish the immigrants' nationalities themselves.

Amnesty condemns bus bomb attack

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International on Friday condemned the suicide bus bombing in Israel which killed 21 people and appealed for an end to attacks on civilians. "We strongly condemn such deliberate and arbitrary killings, which violate fundamental principles of humanitarian law," the international human rights organisation said. "Respect for such principles must be unconditional." Amnesty International called on Israel and the Palestinians "to adhere strictly to international human rights and humanitarian standards in any measure they may take in response to such attacks. Israel's desperate attempts to bulldoze the home in the West Bank town of Kalkiya de Salah Abdul Rahim Hassan Assawir, who claimed the videotape distributed by Hamas that he planned a suicide attack against Israelis. His family appealed to the supreme court, delaying the demolition. Amnesty International said it opposes "the destruction or sealing of houses when it is used as a punishment by governments."

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach dead at 69

NEW YORK (AP) — Shlomo Carlebach, the singing rabbi who led a Manhattan congregation while taking his spiritual message to lands with small Jewish populations, has died. He was 69. Carlebach suffered a heart attack while flying from England on Thursday, said Rabbi Joe Dinneen, his associate at Congregation Kehilath Jacob in New York. Carlebach rose to fame three decades ago as a storyteller, singer and composer of melodies that became standards at Jewish services and weddings.

Mahfouz to stay in intensive care

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's Nobel prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz, who was stabbed a week ago, will remain in intensive care to keep the number of his visitors down hospital workers said Saturday. "We are keeping him (Mahfouz) in the hospital's intensive care unit to control the visits, not for medical reasons. His health is very good," said Abdul Wahab Al Wateidi, a manager at the police hospital where Mr. Mahfouz was still recovering Saturday.

Hard landing for White House copter

WASHINGTON (AP) — An army helicopter carrying White House staff preparing for President Clinton's visit to the Middle East made a hard landing near Kuwait City on Friday after experiencing engine trouble, the Pentagon said. "The landing was unusually hard and quick but there were no injuries," said Pentagon spokesman Scott Campbell. "The pilot performed superbly and brought the helicopter down with one engine." He said the SH-60 Black Hawk was carrying 11 passengers when one of its two engines developed compressor difficulties, at the time, it was about 10 metres off the ground during takeoff from a site near camp Doha outside Kuwait City. It immediately returned to the ground. Passengers included White House staff and military personnel, the White House advance team was scouting the area in preparation for Mr. Clinton's trip to the Middle East next week, which will include a visit to American troops positioned in Kuwait.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Les Six Comagions
18:30 News in French
18:45 Us Inaia
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 F.B.I. Untold Stories
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Bet Your Life
21:00 News in English
22:20 House of Eliott
23:10 Fly By Night

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:40 Sunrise
11:20 Dhuhr
14:31 Asr
17:01 Maghreb
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 83785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Tervanencia Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.
Amman 17/30
Aqaba 22 / 35
Deserts 16 / 52

Jordan Valley 24 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha 752405
Dr. Salma Al Daboubi 776751
Dr. Fakhri Tayeb 885880
Fina pharmacy 641912
Ferdows pharmacy 779336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637661
Naroukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Oanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yahya Tarifi 981520
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Flood Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 609800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 757111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oversea Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-532301

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Akkleh Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 643262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciani 664171/4
Shmiciani Hospital 689131
University Hospital 849445
Al-Musheir Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Indian, Al-Musheir 77101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)800560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:30 Bangkok (RJ)
07:15 Amman, Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:00 Beirut (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Madrid (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
17:55 London (RJ)
18:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:35 Athens (RJ)
18:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00 Paris (RJ)
20:00 Rome (RJ)
20:25 Vienna (RJ)
21:30 Paris, Vienna, (add) (RJ)
00:20 Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
13:25 Moscow (SU)

18:05 Larnaca (CY)

19:30 Cairo (MS)

20:15 Beirut (ME)

23:20 Istanbul (TK)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 Aqaba (RJ)
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Rome (RJ)
11:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:40 Istanbul (RJ)
11:45 Vienna (RJ)
12:00 Athens (RJ)
19:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:25 New Delhi (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)
23:00 Riyadh (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:20 Rome (AZ)
13:30 Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:05 Moscow (SU)
18:55 Larnaca (CY)
20:15 Cairo (MS)
01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman : 8:00 a.m. every Mon

Arr. Damascus : 5:00 p.m. every Mon

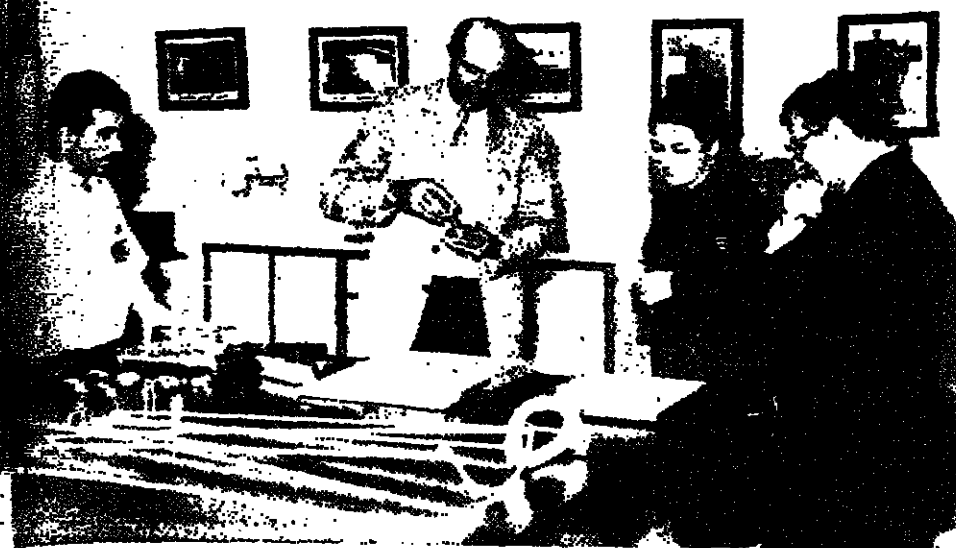
Dep. Damascus : 7:30 a.m. every Sun

Arr. Amman : 5:00 p.m. every Sun

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in f/s per 100
Apple 720
Banana (Mukammal) 6
Cabbage 110
Carrot 300
Cauliflower 280
Clementine 190
Cucumbers (large) 250
Eggplant 250
Garlic 1300
Grapes (Hilwani) 1000
Lemon 270
Marrow (large) 150
Marrow (small) 340
Olive (green) 280
Onion (green) 420
Onion (dry) 420
Pepper (hot) 300
Pepper (sweet) 420
Potato 280
Spinach 270
Tomato 270
String beans 750

لانا من الجول



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Saturday tours faculties of the Jordan University of Science and Technology, accompanied by President Kamel Ajlouni (right) (Petra photo)

Princess Alia opens workshop on modern veterinary surgery

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Saturday opened a five-day workshop on modern trends in veterinary surgery at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), organised in cooperation with Purdue University in the United States.

Dr. Abul Hajja, who is also dean of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty, underlined the role of the veterinarians in contributing to food security by safeguarding the health of livestock.

He added that clinics affiliated to his faculty have so far dealt with 1,200 veterinary cases and conducted 200 operations on animals. According to Nabil Hilat,

who headed the workshop preparatory committee, the meeting aims at further strengthening cooperation with Purdue University in scientific affairs.

Veterinarians from the private and public sectors in Jordan are taking part in the meetings designed to explore modern surgical techniques in veterinary medicine.

Princess Alia was later accompanied by JUST President Kamel Ajlouni on a tour of the campus.

Restoration of water rights is no licence to waste — Sqour

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's restoration of its water rights, as stipulated in the peace treaty to be signed by Jordan and Israel Wednesday, does not mean that water consumption can go on unchecked, said Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour Saturday.

On the contrary, Dr. Sqour added, Jordan is in need of all the water from its different sources as well as people who can guide others in economising on its consumption for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

Dr. Sqour was speaking at the opening session of a Ministry of Water and Irrigation seminar on the role of women in water conservation efforts in the country.

According to the Minister, the role of women in guiding household members in the economic use of water in the home is essential to national efforts to protect the country's meagre water resources.

The three-day seminar was organised in cooperation with the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Also addressing the seminar, Jihan Rifai, deputy chairman of the GFJW, discussed the need for women to take a vital part in saving water.

The seminar aims at spreading public awareness and in promoting the role of women in water conservation efforts and protection of water resources from pollution, said Mrs. Rifai.

JSCEP Deputy Chairman Mohammad Masalha said the various government institutions should support en-



Mohammad Sqour

deavours to promote women's involvement in water conservation efforts.

Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani reminded the audience of the increasing pressure on the Kingdom's water resources, calling for strenuous efforts to secure public cooperation in economising.

The ministry plans to set up a medium and long term strategy on water conservation and development of the country's water resources, according to Dr. Bani Hani.

In addition to the seminar a workshop organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) on the use of water for agricultural purposes resumed Saturday, with attending specialists discussing ways and methods of saving water by adopting drip irrigation.

The delegates are also discussing means of stemming water pollution at the water basins and spreading awareness in schools, universities, factories and farms about ways to protect water resources from pollution.

Jordan, Israel work on details for Jordanians to visit Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel are working out details of arrangements and procedures for Jordanians wishing to visit Israel, official sources said Saturday.

"Detailed arrangements are being worked out for Jordanians wishing to travel to Israel," said one official. "I believe their passports would not be stamped during the initial phase."

Jordan has agreed to allow about 550 Israeli visitors a day to cross over into the Kingdom as of Nov. 1 in a temporary measure until diplomatic relations are established, the sources said.

Jordanian and Israeli negotiators, who discussed opening the borders to each other until the last day of peace talks in Aqaba on Thursday, had ironed out differences over details of the

arrangements.

While Jordan initially said it would allow up to 100 Israeli visitors daily until full diplomatic relations were established, Israeli delegates negotiated a larger number, especially in light of Israel's permitting of an unrestricted number of Jordanian citizens to visit the Jewish state, the sources said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a peace negotiator told the Jordan Times that the two sides had finally agreed to allow up to 350 Israelis to cross into Jordan from the northern border west of Irbid, which is not due to open until the second week of next month, and 200 from the Aqaba-Eilat crossing in the south.

The sources said that Israel had wanted the borders opened to each other's citizens before Nov. 1, but that due to technical conditions, this was not possible

since the northern border, a bridge on the Yarmouk River, would not be ready by that time.

"It also takes time for the travel agents to process the paperwork for the visa applications," the negotiator said, adding that the number of visitors was flexible and could be changed once diplomatic missions were established in Amman and Tel Aviv where the visa applications would be processed.

Jordan and Israel agreed to establish diplomatic relations one month after the signing of the peace treaty at the Aqaba-Eilat border next Wednesday, a ceremony that will be attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton and more than 5,000 guests.

The Aqaba-Eilat crossing, which was opened in August to third country nationals, will be closed on Tuesday until Thursday, the sources said.

Workshop on working with the gifted aims at teachers, administrators

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy General Director of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Abdullah Al Hindawi Saturday inaugurated a teachers' and administrators' training workshop at the Jubilee School in Abdoun.

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which has retained American expert John Feldhusen to conduct the four-day event, the statement said.

The six-hour daily sessions

are designed for the school's staff and faculty, along with other staff from the Ministry of Education and private academic institutions, said the statement.

The workshop, said the NHF, is part of the school's objectives in creating and enhancing teachers and administrators' abilities to identify and deal with gifted and talented students in order to help them reach their utmost potential.

The workshop's topics will focus on: the nature of talent in adolescents, assessing ta-

lent with rating scales, teaching thinking skills and metacognition within subject matter frameworks, conceptions of problem solving, teacher roles, discussion methods, and the need for acceleration, according to the statement.

Dr. Feldhusen is a prominent figure in the world of gifted education, said the statement, and has also played a major national role in writing books on gifted education, citations, instructional materials, and monographs.

Arab pharmaceutical makers to discuss stability guidelines

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Union of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Medical Appliances (AUPAM) Sunday is organising a three-day meeting in Amman to discuss Arab guidelines for stability studies concerning pharmaceutical products in the Arab World.

UPAM Chairman Nizar Jardaneh said Jordan and 10 other Arab countries will be represented at the meeting along the delegates from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Arab Health Ministers Council.

The discussions cover such issues as means and methods

of ensuring the effectiveness of transporting, storing and distributing drugs and the stability of manufacturing and expiry dates of medicines.

Following the three-day meeting, the AUPAM will open a three-day seminar on self-auditing of pharmaceutical products.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

* "Ciudad de Sevilla" Flamenco Show at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City at 7:30 p.m.

* Gourmet dinner with "Ylana" Comical Mime Group Show at Forte Grand Hotel at 9:30 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

FILM

* Film entitled "Children of the Corn" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (92 minutes) (film is not recommended for young audiences).

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

* Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Morte Di Un Matematico Napoletano" (Death of a Neapolitan Mathematician) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

* Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Dove Siete? Io Sono Qui" (Where Are You? Here I Am) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

NOVEL RECITAL

* Novel recital by novelist Mohammad Bahiri at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Two exhibitions: Paintings by Italian painter Armando Appaja, and a special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of paintings of Iraqi artist Jabbar Mijbil at Alia Art Gallery.

* Bani Hamida exhibition of "Nomadic Inspirations" — show of reflections of original bedouin designs (including a collection of headwoven rugs, runners, and cushions) at Darat Al Funun.

* Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery.

* Exhibition of art by Sanaa Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery.

* Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery.

* The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.

* Exhibition by several Iraqi artists at Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

* Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun.

* "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center.

Iraq upholds its right

(Continued from page 12)

imposed in response to the 1990 invasion. Mr. Saleh repeated Baghdad's offer to recognise the status — which restricts Iraq's access to the Gulf — in exchange for the lifting of the sanctions.

"Do you really expect us to recognise Kuwait when our people are dying of starvation?" he asked.

But in apparently contradictory remarks, he said Baghdad had already recognised Kuwait and no National Assembly resolution was needed.

He also said the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcated since the Gulf war ceasefire was still under arbitration at the U.N.

The United Nations is unlikely to accept a recognition that does not acknowledge the new border.

Mr. Saleh, dressed in military uniform and sitting at his desk beneath a portrait of President Saddam, accused the United States and the U.N. of moving the goalposts in the dispute.

"Every time we comply they come up with new conditions. We have been constructive and cooperative," he said.

The sanctions have destroyed Iraq's economy, made medicine difficult to obtain and is gradually eroding the country's infrastructure. The United States is pushing the policy as a means to bring President Saddam's downfall. But there are no signs that is imminent.

Iraqi Health Minister Umaid Mubarak said Saturday that Iraq's hospitals could only take in about one-third of the people needing medical attention due to a shortage of supplies.



DON'T CRACK UNDER PRESSURE

TAG Heuer SWISS MADE SINCE 1860 Abu Shakra

Spanish Cultural Week

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All proceeds to the benefit of Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Rwandan Hutu military chief warns of new civil war

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — The chief of Rwanda's defeated Hutu army warned Saturday that his refugee troops were ready to restart the civil war if the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)-appointed Kigali regime snubbed proposals for a power-sharing government.

"It is important to know that if the RPF continues to refuse negotiations, we will attack," Major General Augustin Bizimungu said in an interview with AFP in this eastern border town.

"It is possible there will be another civil war," Gen. Bizimungu said. "Do you think we want to stay forever in Zaire?"

The 41-year-old general is regarded as instrumental in any agreement on the return of the hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees encamped around Rwanda's borders.

He refused to be drawn on whether his army was preparing for conventional or guerrilla warfare should negotiations not get off the ground.

"That is not important," Gen. Bizimungu said. "What is important is that there will be an action from the army."

In an earlier interview here, the head of Rwanda's former ruling party, Mathieu Ndirumapfwe, said the Hutu troops are being transformed from a conventional force into a guerrilla army.

Mr. Ndirumapfwe, president of the MRND, the National Republican Movement for Development and

Democracy, claimed his party had the support of most of the estimated 820,000 refugees crammed into six squalid refugee camps around here and was "strong enough" to launch an armed offensive.

Mr. Ndirumapfwe's name, like that of Gen. Bizimungu's, is on an international list of Hutu leaders accused of genocide.

"If we tell the people to go back shooting, they will do it," he said.

Gen. Bizimungu, too, claimed support from the Hutu refugees, many of them already mass murderers, saying he could call on "200,000 men" from the camps to join what he says is a troop strength of 20,000. Other estimates put the number as high as 40,000 — in an offensive on Kigali.

"We have to do something to get our country back," the general said.

Acknowledging that a United Nations ban on the sale of weapons to the MRND had left his army of around 20,000 men under-equipped, Gen. Bizimungu said he still had enough weaponry to mount an attack.

"We have left arms (hidden) in Rwanda," Gen. Bizimungu said. "We have enough equipment there."

According to international aid workers, ousted Rwandan Prime Minister Jean Kambanda was greeted with shouts of "we want war" when he paid a secret visit to

Kibumba refugee camp near here Thursday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials, meanwhile, report increasing clandestine military training in the refugee camps, which also house 30,000 to 40,000 Hutu soldiers.

The officials also note with concern that key figures in the ousted Hutu regime have taken control of food distribution and security in the powderkeg camps, and report a general deterioration in the security situation.

They fear that relief food supplies are being intercepted by Hutu soldiers and stockpiled in readiness for an offensive into Rwanda.

The officials also say that bands of youths, thought to be members of the MRND's Interahamwe militias which carried out most of the massacres in Rwanda between April and July, are increasingly taking to the streets of the camps brandishing machetes, the weapons used to hack to death hundreds of thousands of men, women, children and babies.

Ethnic bloodletting which erupted following the death of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspicious plane crash on April 6 claimed the lives of up to one million of Rwanda's 7.9 million population.

Several million Hutus, including MRND ministers and officials, fled to neighbouring countries when the minority

Tutsi forces routed the Interahamwe militias and Hutu troops.

Both Ndirumapfwe and Bizimungu stressed that they would prefer a negotiated settlement which would result in a power-sharing government.

Both men said they would give the RPF and the international community "enough time" to set up a negotiating forum, but both refused to specify the period they envisaged.

"It is not necessary to reveal the programme of the army," Gen. Bizimungu said.

Meanwhile, an estimated 15,000 refugees have fled from northwest Burundi to Zaire in the past 10 days to escape clashes between Burundi troops and gunmen, the U.N. food agency said Saturday.

Gemmo Lodesani, Burundi representative for the World Food Programme (WFP), told Reuters the refugees fled from Cibitoke province, where officials say at least 29 civilians were killed in fighting between the Tutsi-dominated army and extremist Hutu gunmen.

They say the attackers are gunmen of the outlawed Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (Palipehutu) buy the military says Hutus from the defeated army in neighbouring Rwanda are also involved.

Burundi has the same ethnic makeup as Rwanda.



South Korean high school girls toss flowers into the water off the broken end of Seoul's Bridge Saturday in memory of nine of their classmates who were among the 32 killed when the bridge collapsed during rush hour Sunday (AFP photo)

Bridge collapse stirs uproar in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — The collapse of a bridge in central Seoul which killed at least 32 people unleashed uproar over President Kim Young-Sam's policies on Saturday with members of parliament, the media and engineers warning of more disasters.

Military and police frogmen called off their search operations for the day after combing the bed of the Han River for 10 hours without finding any more bodies.

They recovered 32 bodies Friday after a central span of the Songu Bridge plunged into the river, taking with it cars, vans and a fully-loaded bus. Helicopters plucked 17 people from the water to safety.

"National crisis," declared a headline in the influential Dong-A Ilbo newspaper. "Broken bridge, the collapse of national management," said another newspaper headline.

The collapse of the four-lane bridge in the morning rush hour is the latest in a string of embarrassments to Mr. Kim's cabinet since he came to office in February last year.

The government's security capabilities were questioned after a series of grisly murders and after two army officers deserted in protest at lack of discipline in the military.

The administration's diplomacy was criticised after Seoul supported Washington's deal this week with North Korea to delay outside inspection of the North's key nuclear facilities for five

years despite earlier demands for immediate checks.

A corruption scandal involving tax officers has marred reforms in which priority was given to ending corruption.

"We live in a country where you cannot walk around at night, cannot pay tax properly and cannot even cross a bridge safely," said spokesman Park Ji-Won of the main opposition Democratic Party.

Investigators Saturday found rusted, broken hinges joining steel trusses supporting the bridge and said the collapse appeared to have been caused by the break-up of the hinges.

Commentators noted that only last week questions were raised in parliament about the safety of the Songu and many other bridges over the Han River that bisects Seoul, home to more than 12 million people.

Mr. Kim Friday fired Seoul Mayor Lee Won-Jong who said during the parliamentary hearings there was no danger of safety-related disasters on or over the river. Urgent checks of other bridges were ordered.

State television footage repeatedly showed cracks on several other Seoul bridges and civil engineers warned there might be more disasters unless action was taken immediately.

Kim Sun-Won, executive managing director at Woonung engineering, said many of 17 Han River bridges were designed for

vehicles no heavier than 33 tonnes but overloaded trucks were not stopped from using the bridges.

"Rules are not applied in our country and sudden irregularities and accidents are bound to take place in such a state," said opposition Member of Parliament Chang Ki-Wook.

City officials said repairs to the bridge had been scheduled for Thursday but were postponed due to bad weather.

The following morning, when it was open for busy traffic, the disaster occurred when a 48-metre (160-foot) central section of the steel-girded bridge suddenly sheared from the main structure and fell into the Han.

Opposition leader Lee Ki-Tack urged resignations by all cabinet ministers and an apology by the president, attacking the administration of trying to avoid responsibility.

"To achieve politics of responsibility, the president will have to carry out a thorough cabinet reshuffle and arrest the Seoul mayor and related Interior Ministry officials," Mr. Lee told a news conference Friday.

A presidential spokesman said Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dag had offered to resign over the collapse, but Mr. Kim had initially indicated he would turn down the offer.

Political analysts said Mr. Lee was not yet safe and public outrage may yet force him from office.

Quayle forms presidential campaign committee

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the strongest sign yet he will run for president in 1996, former Vice President Dan Quayle has created a presidential exploratory committee with \$100,000 left over from his old Senate campaign account.

Because he hasn't formally registered as a candidate, Mr. Quayle has not filed any records with the Federal Election Commission detailing the new committee, which can spend money to test the political waters.

But his former Senate campaign account, which Mr. Quayle recently converted into a political action committee (PAC) called "issues '94," reported to the commission this week that it transferred

\$100,000 on Sept. 20 to the "Dan Quayle Exploratory Committee."

The exploratory committee and the PAC listed the same address in Indianapolis.

William R. Neale, a close Quayle associate and treasurer for his new PAC, said observers should not read too much into the creation of the committee.

"It's not doing anything yet. He has just set aside the money in the event that he decides to pursue federal office so he can comply with all the applicable FEC rules," Mr. Neale said.

Mr. Neale said he believes Mr. Quayle won't make a final decision until 1995.

But Mr. Quayle has made no secret of his aspirations to

return to the White House and close associates say he spent a long summer vacation with his family discussing a presidential campaign and emerged all but certain he would run.

He acts more and more like a candidate, and the latest moves, including the creation of the new PAC, put him on par with other Republican hopefuls.

Senate minority leader Bob Dole, former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and Texas Sen. Phil Gramm already have committees to donate to Republican candidates across the country and finance their own travel to local political events for mingling with local party officials.

Clinton cautiously upbeat on election results

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has predicted that the Democrats will do better than expected in the Nov. 8 congressional elections, and quipped that his party was struggling now because "we didn't want to peak too soon."

At a White House news conference that gave him a forum to talk about his accomplishments, Mr. Clinton said he believed many Americans would change their minds about voting Republican "when they have all the information."

When syndicated columnist Mary McGrory asked him about an Oklahoma candidate claim that there are no normal people in Washington, Mr. Clinton joked that he "would be glad to testify in court" that she was normal.

"The atmosphere is abnormal, and that makes the people say and do weird things, but there's a lot of fine folks here," he said.

Mr. Clinton denied he was apprehensive about the congressional and gubernatorial elections even though most polls suggest the Republicans will score big gains and perhaps even take control of congress for the first time in four decades.

Thirty-five of the 100 U.S. Senate seats are up for grabs in the election, as are all 435 seats in the House of Repre-

sentatives and 36 of the 50 state governor's offices.

Mr. Clinton's fellow Democrats currently control both houses of Congress and have a majority of the nation's governorships. But the party that holds the White House traditionally loses seats in a non-presidential election.

And some political experts believe an anti-incumbent mood in the country and Mr. Clinton's relative unpopularity could cause a Democratic rout.

Mr. Clinton said he believed the anti-Democratic sentiment had been "changing in the last few days, and we didn't want to peak too soon," a quip that brought laughter from reporters who "crowded the White House East Room."

He said the public was only now becoming aware of economic progress and social policy changes like a move to make college student loans available to more middle-class people, a programme that was the focus of his news conference opening statement.

"As more and more Americans find out between now and election day that our administration, working with our allies in Congress, did things to make government work for ordinary Americans... I think the voters will

change their minds" about supporting Republican candidates, the president said.

Mr. Clinton flatly denied allegations that he offered former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder an ambassadorship in return for Mr. Wilder's endorsement of Democratic incumbent Charles Robb in Virginia's tightly contested U.S. Senate race.

Mr. Wilder and Mr. Robb are longtime political adversaries.

Mr. Clinton took a light-hearted jab at conservative Virginia U.S. Senate candidate Oliver North, who said recently that Mr. Clinton was "not my commander-in-chief," and said he did not support a California proposal to deny benefits to illegal immigrants.

Mr. Clinton said he was not bothered by that remark because Col. North, a retired Marine officer who served on the National Security Council staff in the Reagan White House, "didn't act as if Ronald Reagan was his commander-in-chief either."

Mr. Reagan has accused Col. North of exceeding his authority as a relatively low-level aide and of falsely stating that he, Mr. Reagan, secretly approved of Col. North's activities in the so-called Iran-contra scandal — in which funds from illegal arms trading with Iran were

diverted to anti-Communist Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Mr. Clinton said he understood the public sentiment fueling California's Proposition 187, which calls for denying public health and education benefits to illegal immigrants.

But he said he agreed with Republican leaders Jack Kemp and William Bennett, who oppose the referendum.

Mr. Clinton said the proposed crackdown on aliens could cause health risks for everyone and lead to a rise in crime and other anti-social behaviour.

Meanwhile, Mario Cuomo, the Democratic New York governor once seen as a leading presidential contender, is in political danger in his home state in the Nov. 8 vote amid a political climate hostile to incumbents.

Republican challenger George Pataki, a heretofore little-known lawmaker and small-town mayor promising to cut taxes by 25 per cent over the next four years, is seen to be in a position to beat the 12-year Democratic incumbent.

Mr. Pataki, until now known mostly as a defender of hunters' rights and a tough enforcer of parking regulations in his community of Peekskill, is using a strategy similar to one used by New Jersey's Christie Whitman

History repeats itself in Rome's Trevi Fountain

ROME (R) — German supermodel Claudia Schiffer waded in Rome's Trevi Fountain Friday night to imitate the famous scene in the 1960 classic Fellini film *La Dolce Vita*. Ms. Schiffer splashed in the famous fountain in central Rome with a male model for a picture shoot while wearing a dress by designer Valentino. In the late director Federico Fellini's classic film, the scene was played out by Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni and Swedish actress Anita Ekberg. Ms. Schiffer wore a black dress similar to that worn by Ms. Ekberg over rubber boots to protect her legs from the cold waters of the recently-restored fountain.

'Hollywood madam' trial postponed again

LOS ANGELES (R) — The trial of alleged "Hollywood madam" Heidi Fleiss, who is accused of running a high-priced call girl ring that catered to stars and Hollywood moguls, was delayed for another week Friday. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Judith Champagne set the trial date for Oct. 31, and said it was "firm."

Ms. Fleiss, the 28-year-old daughter of a prominent Los Angeles pediatrician, pleaded not guilty in September last year to four charges of pandering — procuring women for prostitution — and one charge of possessing cocaine. The case reportedly had a number of big name stars and producers fearing their names might surface. But Beverly Hills Police said while they have Ms. Fleiss' "black book" of clients they have no intention of publicizing its contents.

During a brief hearing, which lasted about a minute, Friday, Judge Champagne agreed to delay the trial for one more week upon learning that Ms. Fleiss' lead attorney, Anthony Brooklier, was involved in another case in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and would not be available before Oct. 31. Ms. Fleiss' other defence attorney, Donald Marks, later told reporters, "we are prepared to go to trial, and we are going to trial." He said there was no question of a plea-bargain. "She has from the outset maintained her innocence and she is determined to go to trial," Mr. Marks said of his client.

Rainier angered by Princess Grace's biography

PARIS (AP) — Grace Kelly had dozens of torrid affairs before marrying Prince Rainier of Monaco, according to a new, unauthorised biography of the late actress that provoked threats of legal action from the Prince. In Grace, published here this week by a contrarian, American author Robert Lacey, says the Hollywood actress had steamy affairs with the Shah of Iran, Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, Oleg Cassini, William Holden and many others who couldn't resist her charms. Mr. Lacey spent two years on the book, combing through Kelly's personal papers and letters and interviewing dozens of Kelly's Hollywood friends and family members. Her younger sister Lizanne is quoted at length. According to the book, Princess Grace's parents calculated that Prince Rainier, whom they affectionately dubbed "Ray," was the 50th man to propose marriage. Departing from his usual reticence to comment on books or articles about the Grimaldi family, the palace told the Associated Press: "We are deeply shocked that someone, in the hopes of making money, could smear the memory of an admirable wife and mother," it said in a statement. "We think that her memory should be respected and that she be allowed to rest in peace," it said, adding that Prince Rainier would take legal action."

Mr. Lacey also contended that Princess Grace became a heavy drinker in her later years because Prince Rainier neglected her, and found solace in the company of younger men. Excerpts of the book were reprinted in this week's Paris-Match magazine, which also published photos of Princess Grace with some of her alleged suitors. Some of her alleged lovers quoted in the book described her as passionate and sensual, the opposite of what they expected from her chilly, China-doll exterior.

Kyrgyzstan holds polls to boost reform

BISHKEK (R) — The people of Kyrgyzstan turned out in large numbers Saturday to vote in local elections and a referendum called by President Askar Akayev to boost his liberal market reforms.

"The vote is extremely important for us... we hope to get support for the reform the people," Mr. Akayev told reporters after casting his ballot in the centre of the capital, Bishkek.

The Central Electoral Commission said that by one p.m. (0700 GMT), six hours after polling stations opened, 63 per cent of 2.2 million

voters had already cast their ballots, well above the required 50 per cent to make the referendum valid.

One constitutional amendment, put to the referendum, would replace the current one-chamber parliament with a two-house legislature.

Under the scheme, 35 deputies will form a permanent sitting lower chamber to draft laws. The upper house of 75 deputies will meet twice a year to approve them.

Another amendment will allow changes to the constitution through referendum as well as through parliament.

tary decision as at present.

The existing parliament, which was elected under Soviet rule in 1990 and is heavily hostile to Mr. Akayev, has failed to get enough votes to block his decision to call the referendum because of a boycott by deputies supporting the president.

There appears to be little doubt that both amendments to the constitution which Mr. Akayev had put to referendum would be passed — mostly because of his personal popularity.

Mozambican opposition rules out return to war

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambican opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama Saturday ruled out returning to war if he lost the country's first multi-party elections next week.

Mr. Dhlakama, whose Renamo (Mozambican National Resistance) movement ended its 16-year insurrection against the Frelimo government with peace accords two years ago, denied his men were stockpiling weapons in the bush just in case.

"It is not true. We don't like war," he told reporters. "We will not return to war."

Mr. Dhlakama was speaking after meeting Western ambassadors and U.N. envoy Aldo Ajello to discuss the polls on Oct. 27-28.

Mr. Dhlakama said he was satisfied with pledges by foreign observers to examine his movement's fears of electoral fraud.

Mr. Dhlakama has provoked unease with ambiguous remarks that only fraud could cost him victory when 6.5 million voters go to the polls in the first pluralist test of the Frelimo party, which has governed the impoverished southern African country.

After meeting the diplomats, Mr. Dhlakama drove to his final Maputo campaign rally, where hundreds of supporters wearing clothes emblazoned with his portrait turned out to cheer him.

Clinton cautiously upbeat on election results

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has predicted that the Democrats will do better than expected in the Nov. 8 congressional elections, and quipped that his party was struggling now because "we didn't want to peak too soon."

At a White House news conference that gave him a forum to talk about his accomplishments, Mr. Clinton said he believed many Americans would change their minds about voting Republican "when they have all the information."

When syndicated columnist Mary McGrory asked him about an Oklahoma candidate claim that there are no normal people in Washington, Mr. Clinton joked that he "would be glad to testify in court" that she was normal.

"The atmosphere is abnormal, and that makes the people say and do weird things, but there's a lot of fine folks here," he said.

Mr. Clinton denied he was apprehensive about the congressional and gubernatorial elections even though most polls suggest the Republicans will score big gains and perhaps even take control of congress for the first time in four decades.

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Diana ducks press; visits Red Cross

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — They tried to keep it quiet, but by the end of Princess Diana's hourlong stop at the Red Cross, a crowd was salivating outside.

"I was amazed when I walked her down to the door. The whole front yard was full of people," said Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross. "That probably happens everywhere she goes."

Princess Diana, whose shattered marriage to the Prince of Wales is front page news in Britain, smiled for the cameras. "She's a very gracious person," Mrs. Dole said.

The buildup of people started Friday with a handful of photographers who followed the princess' car. It quickly grew to several dozen, mostly belonging to the media.

It also included about 20 preschool children from a day-care centre, who hap-

pened by during a walk and waited a half hour to see a real princess.

When she came out, the tots waved, the princess waved, and she got in a big car and rode away.

"We were a little disappointed she didn't come over and talk to the children, but given her experiences of late with the press, I can understand why," said Christine Wauls, director of Small Savers, which tends children of federal banking regulators.

Dodging reporters has become a priority for Princess Diana after numerous embarrassments in her personal life and stories about them.

Publication of excerpts from an authorised biography of her husband, Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, began last weekend. Part II comes Sunday, with the princess conveniently out of the country.

She is expected to stay in

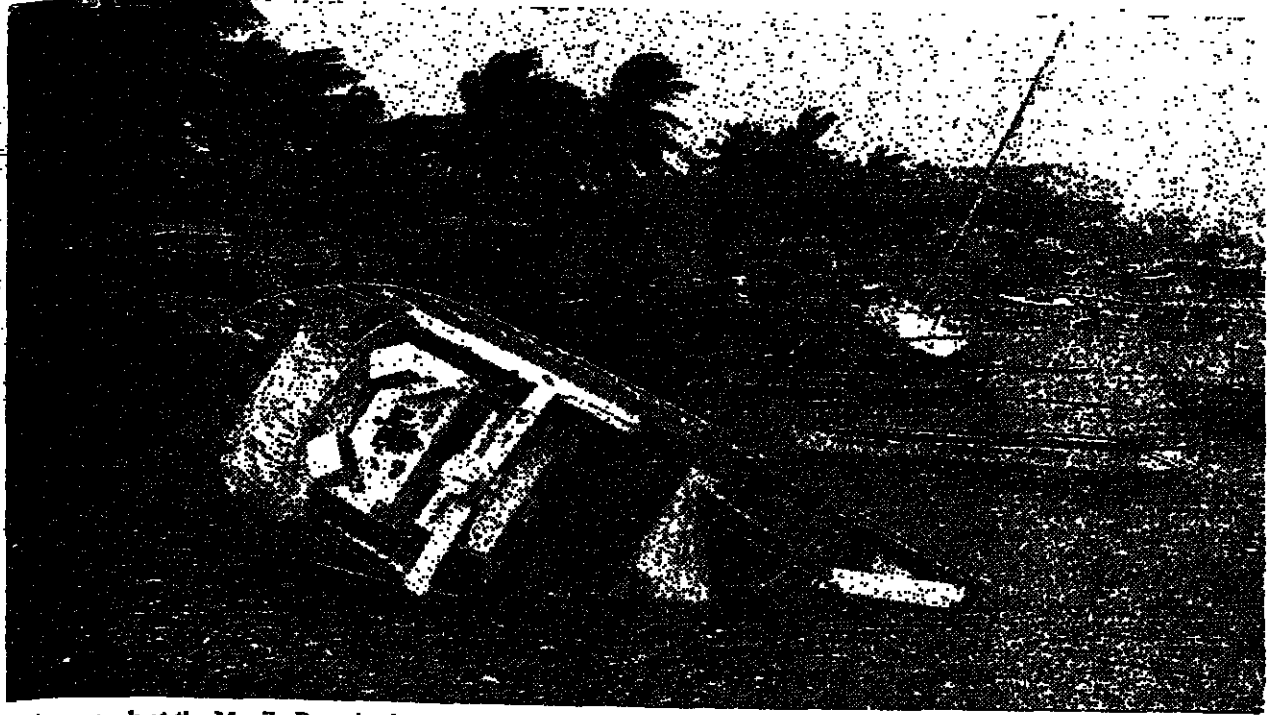
Washington through the weekend as a guest of Brazilian Ambassador Paulo Tarso Flecha De Lima and his wife, Lucia, friends since the diplomats were posted in London. No public events are planned.

Mrs. Dole, wife of Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, said the princess wanted to discuss cooperation between the American and British Red Cross — Diana is vice president of the latter — and ways to improve humanitarian efforts, especially care of refugees.

The two talked of wrenching experiences visiting victims of disaster and conflict. "We were both in agreement that the difficult part is you would like to be able to fix the problem," Mrs. Dole said. "But no matter how much money you raise, how many pharmaceuticals you send, there's so much more that is needed."

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Boats are sunk at the Manila Bay pier by typhoon Teresa's powerful winds (AFP photo)

Philippine typhoon sinks tanker; over 20 missing

MANILA (R) — More than 20 crewmen from an oil tanker were missing Saturday after the vessel was caught in the path of typhoon Teresa and sank west of the Philippines, officials said.

The storm brought havoc across central Luzon island in the country's north, killing five people, leaving thousands homeless, toppling trees and power lines and blacking out much of Manila.

As it swept into the South China Sea Friday night, huge seas whipped up by the storm broke the 38,263-DWT tanker Thanas-

sis A in two.

At least four of the 36-man crew of the Maltese-registered ship were rescued, according to Philippine Coast Guard officials who mounted a search and rescue operation with Marine rescue officials in Hong Kong.

But Hong Kong officials, who sent two aircraft to the area, said 15 had been rescued.

The planes reported an oil slick in the water where the tanker went down 640 kilometres south-southeast of Hong Kong.

"Rescue is difficult to do

from our end because the waves are too strong," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Lieutenant-Commander Feliciano Dy said.

The vessel, on its way to Singapore with a cargo of fuel oil from Nakhodka in Russia's Far East, had a crew of nine Greeks, 26 Indonesians and one Russian, the Hong Kong Rescue Service said.

President Fidel Ramos declared a state of calamity in Manila and surrounding provinces where the typhoon smashed houses, snapped trees and power lines and plunged much of the capital

into darkness.

More than 24 hours after the typhoon swept across Luzon north of Manila, large areas of the capital still had no power and some areas were without water.

Mr. Ramos, speaking over a local radio station, said he had taken direct charge of rescue operations.

North of Manila, local officials said typhoon rains triggered mudflows of volcanic debris from Mount Pinatubo and forced more than 600 families to flee to higher ground from one town alone.

Major sees 'quantum leap' in search for N. Ireland peace

LISBURN, Northern Ireland (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Saturday the Northern Ireland peace process was moving forward but predicted he would need more meetings with the Irish government to agree the next stage.

Buoyed by a positive response by Protestant and Catholic politicians to the proposal he made Friday to open talks with the political allies of the IRA, Mr. Major played down reports of Irish government concern over the next moves aimed at ending 25 years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

"I think we've made a quantum leap forward and I think there is now a momentum that will carry it a good deal further," Mr. Major told reporters before meeting shoppers in Lisburn, a town near Belfast where the British army has its headquarters.

Mr. Major said his scheduled meeting with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds Monday to discuss the elements of a long-awaited "framework docu-

ment" on the way forward would be a stock-taking exercise.

Dublin newspapers Saturday reported government doubts about Britain's commitment to executive-powered bodies spanning the Irish border and other elements of an "Irish dimension," which Dublin says must go hand in hand with any "internal" Northern Ireland plans for an elected assembly.

In a speech hailed as historic, Mr. Major Friday signalled proposals for an elected assembly for the British-ruled province now that rival pro-Irish Catholics and pro-British Protestants have forsaken violence and chosen a political way forward.

He also confirmed that Britain had a "working assumption" that the ceasefire proclaimed by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) on Aug. 31 was permanent, opening the way for exploratory talks with its political wing, Sinn Fein, by the end of the year.

The Irish Times reported

Saturday that although the Dublin government generally welcomed Mr. Major's new strategies, "informed sources" believed Monday's meeting could make or break the whole peace process.

But asked whether Monday would be a crunch meeting, Mr. Major replied, "no, no, no... I think someone's being a little over-enthusiastic if they're saying that."

Illustrating that more work was required by both governments to settle outstanding issues, Mr. Major said, "we have been pressing for a very long time to move forward on the framework document."

"We are in a position to move forward but I think both (Reynolds) and I will be absolutely determined to make sure we get this right. I'm sure we'll make some progress on Monday but I think we may need more meetings beyond that, and I think he does too," the prime minister said.

Huge progress had already been made and there was no question of losing momen-

tum, he said, pledging to move forward in the spirit of hope that now existed in the community.

Probe urged in British parliamentary scandal

Meanwhile a parliamentary cash-for-questions scandal dogging British Prime Minister John Major rumbled when an ex-chairman of the ruling Conservative Party called Saturday for a full inquiry into lawmakers' outside interests.

Sir Norman Fowler told BBC Radio an independent panel was needed to set out and enforce sensible rules in order to restore public confidence in parliament, dented by allegations the government has become mired in sleaze after 15 years in power.

"We need to take the public with us, and that's why I think it would not be enough to have a parliamentary committee. There does need to be an independent element," he said.

German FDP 'at war' ahead of coalition talks

BONN (R) — Germany's liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) was racked by infighting Saturday ahead of a weekend leadership meeting aimed at finalising its demands for coalition negotiations next week.

Honorary party Chairman Otto Lambdorsdorff, reflecting internal party splits and bickering that have emerged since last Sunday's election saw the FDP plummet in the polls, warned deputies not to block Helmut Kohl's reelection as chancellor.

The FDP is junior partner in the present coalition formed in January 1991 headed by Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party Christian Social Union.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, FDP leader for the past 17 months, had earlier appeared to have laid aside a row with his ambitious rival, former Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann.

Mr. Moellmann, an unassuming self-publicist who

has openly blamed Mr. Kinkel for crushing FDP defeats in European and German regional elections, withdrew his demand for a ministerial post.

But on Saturday Mr. Moellmann, who resigned in 1993 over an influence-peddling scandal, renewed the offensive, telling the Hanover-based daily Neue Presse that Mr. Kinkel had no idea how to redefine the FDP's profile and ensure a revival in support.

"It's a question of straight ahead, even if that means straight ahead over a cliff," the paper quoted Mr. Moellmann as saying. "With this leadership, the liberals are being led straight into the abyss."

The FDP slipped back into parliament with 6.9 per cent of the ballot in Sunday's general election after 11 per cent in 1990. This enabled the centre-right coalition to cling to power with a razor-thin 10-seat majority in an enlarged lower house.

The FDP's "grand old lady" Hildegarde Hamm-Brucher sharply attacked Mr. Moellmann as a has-been who had not realised his days of political glory were over.

But in an interview with Hamburg's Morgenpost newspaper, she also obliquely criticised Mr. Kinkel for being unable to carry across to voters the party's liberal message.

"War in the FDP" said Saturday mass-circulation Bild.

"I have very concrete ideas how the FDP can redefine its policies and reform its organisation," he told Bild. "We have to realise again that substance is more important than personalities."

Mr. Lambdorsdorff said the FDP had to go into coalition talks with Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, which began Monday, determined to impose its ideology on the new government programme as a sign that the FDP was an independent party worth voting for.

But he also warned potential FDP rebels not to vote against Mr. Kohl's reelection next month in Berlin's historic Reichstag.

"Whoever does that knows perfectly well that he will have given the party the 'coup de grace'," Mr. Lambdorsdorff said.

CDU officials insist the 10-seat majority is enough to govern, but an opinion poll by the Trendresearch group for Focus news magazine showed some 47 per cent of people questioned thought the coalition would not survive the full four-year term.

Rudolf Dressler, deputy parliamentary leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said even Mr. Kohl's reelection as chancellor was by no means guaranteed.

Noting that up to 23 votes from the ranks of the governing parties had gone against the veteran chancellor in previous years, Mr. Dressler said Mr. Kohl's thin majority may not suffice.

Malaria kills thousands in India — health groups

NEW DELHI (R) — A deadly strain of malaria that attacks a victim's brain has killed thousands of people in western India, claiming many more lives than an outbreak of plague, health groups and newspapers said Saturday.

"An Indian Red Cross official said 4,000 people had died of cerebral malaria in a single district of Rajasthan state — a popular tourist destination on India's western border with Pakistan."

"We have calculated 4,000 deaths in Barmer district alone since last month," K.M. Khatri, district secretary for the Red Cross in Rajasthan's Barmer district, told Reuters by telephone.

Government health officials said more than 70,000 people had been struck by cerebral malaria in Rajasthan

teer health groups and newspapers, which gave differing figures, had exaggerated the number of dead.

"This has been blown out of proportion," a senior Health Ministry official who asked not to be named said in New Delhi.

"The figures of deaths reported in the newspapers are highly inflated," a senior State Health Ministry official told Reuters in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan.

"The deaths caused by other diseases and natural factors have been wrapped into malarial deaths," he said.

The Rajasthan official, who also asked not to be identified, said 78,087 people had tested positive for the mosquito-borne disease that broke out four weeks ago. A

had been tested.

He said cerebral malaria had killed 232 people through Friday, including 94 since the beginning of October.

Health Ministry Director-General A.K. Mukherjee said the number of deaths was "very small."

"It is not like pneumonic plague," he said, referring to the disease which broke out in a region south of Rajasthan last month and has killed at least 57 people.

"Plague is a disaster. This is only a ripple," Mr. Mukherjee said. "The country is very big."

He said the disease had been identified as plasmodium vivax malaria and was easily cured with the common anti-malaria drugs Chloroquine and Primaquine.

The Pioneer newspaper

least 2,000 people, while the British-based Action Aid volunteer group said it had counted about 1,000 dead during an inspection tour.

"These deaths are confirmed. The toll could be higher, but we are not into the figures game," Action Aid's project officer Ajay Chaudhuri told Reuters after a tour of the region.

Mr. Khatri said he had visited more than 900 villages in the district of Barmer since September.

Barmer, which borders Pakistan, is one of the four hardest hit state districts which also include Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, popular with foreign tourists, health workers said.

"There have been four to five deaths in every village,"

U.N. runs out of fuel after Bosnian Serb blockade

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Peacekeepers have run out of fuel in the U.N.-protected Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde because of a Serb blockade and can no longer carry out their mission, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday.

Major Herve Gourmelon of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said fuel was low in another protected enclave in eastern Bosnia, Zepa.

The U.N. refugee agency said its operations had also been hit. "We get our fuel from them," said Kris Janowski of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "If they grind to a halt, we grind to a halt too."

The fuel crisis, which UNPROFOR predicted for days, occurred as U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi began talks with Bosnian Serb leaders to seek an end to their systematic disruption of the U.N. aid network in Bosnia.

Maj. Gourmelon told reporters: "It means (the units) are unable to go on with their mission. I think they have enough fuel for their cigarette lighters but not more."

The issue is a serious embarrassment for the U.N. which has been accused of being too soft in dealing with obstruction and military aggression by the Serbs.

Its fuel and aid supply programme has been in chaos since mid-year when Bosnian Serbs rejected an international peace plan and stopped convoys crossing the 70 per cent of Bosnia under their control.

The winter supply programme for Sarajevo and the eastern Muslim enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica is in turmoil with U.N. negotiators trapped in a maze of demands from both Muslim and Serb authorities which they cannot meet.

Maj. Gourmelon said the U.N. refused a Serb demand for 50 per cent of all fuel shipments.

The UNHCR was more conciliatory and Mr. Janowski said: "We are prepared to settle with them for a larger percentage than they currently get which is something like 25 or 30 per cent of the fuel that comes through their territory."

By giving any fuel, the aid agency is open to charges that



U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi (left) troops from the demilitarised zone on Mount Igman after they held talks about removing

it is keeping the Bosnian Serb war machine going now that military supplies from Yugoslavia have been cut off.

The U.N. said the Bosnian Serb leadership also demanded that the peacekeepers remove Bosnian government troops from the demilitarised zone (DMZ) on Mount Igman outside Sarajevo.

The Muslim-led government refuses to budge while the Serbs keep artillery and tanks in the U.N. weapons exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital.

"The Serbs have said they will allow fuel convoys to pass only if they could get 50 per cent of the fuel and only when UNPROFOR have successfully cleared Bosnian forces out of the Igman DMZ," Maj. Gourmelon said.

"Of course UNPROFOR has refused this bargain and has rejected any linkage with the situation on Mount Igman."

Mr. Akashi's ability to argue against the linkage was undermined in advance by the U.N. Security Council which said Friday that government forces should withdraw.

A road across the mountain is the only free Muslim access to Sarajevo and is regularly fired on by Serb guns inside the weapons exclusion zone. UNPROFOR has done nothing to stop this.

The strongarm tactics of the Serbs have undermined how easily they can humiliate the U.N. forces, provided

mainly by professional European armies but weakened by their leaders' refusal to confront the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

Mr. Akashi is locked in a running dispute with NATO over his reluctance to use air power to punish the Serbs for attacks on the enclaves and peacekeeping forces.

UNPROFOR incurred the fury of the Bosnian government this week when it decided not to call in NATO warplanes after Serbs shot up a UNHCR convoy near Gorazde, killing a driver.

NATO sources in Brussels said the dispute may be coming to an end with the U.N. accepting the need for tougher and swifter air strikes.

"The U.N. has agreed on the idea of speeding things up and on the need for a multiplicity of targets," one said.

The compromise will be formalised when the two organisations meet in New York next week.

Bosnia accused the U.N. commander in Sarajevo of indifference toward the lives of Bosnians working for the United Nations and asked the Security Council Friday to review his conduct.

Bosnia has long complained that Lt. Gen. Michael Rose, in charge of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, has been too reluctant to use air power to retaliate against Bosnian Serbs for attacks on peacekeepers and civilians.

"It is our view that in most

armies subject to civilian authority. General Rose's actions would at least garner a review or a potential court-martial," Bosnian Ambassador Muhammad Sacirbey wrote in a letter to the Security Council.

But he conceded the United Nations has no authority to conduct a court-martial. Gen. Rose is a British general and subject only to court-martial by that country's military.

The Security Council met Friday on Bosnia and largely dismissed Mr. Sacirbey's letter.

In the letter, Mr. Sacirbey described two incidents to underscore his criticism of Gen. Rose.

On Tuesday, Bosnian Serb snipers opened fire on a U.N. aid convoy, killing the Bosnian driver of one of the vehicles. The local U.N. commander called for NATO air support, but was turned down by Gen. Rose, Mr. Sacirbey said.

In contrast, Mr. Sacirbey wrote, the U.N. called in air power after Bosnian Serb snipers seriously wounded a French peacekeeper on Sept. 22.

"We would like to believe that the life of a Bosnian employed under the United Nations mandate is not deemed of lesser value than of non-Bosnians working under an identical mandate and for the same objectives," Mr. Sacirbey wrote. "Unfortunately, we have good reason to believe otherwise."

U.S. forces in Haiti hunt rural paramilitaries

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The commander of U.S. special forces in Haiti said Friday his troops were hunting several dozen active paramilitaries and had narrowly missed capturing one cell the night before.

Meanwhile, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide met with his cabinet Friday, but by late in the day there were no signs he was any closer to naming a new prime minister, despite earlier predictions by some aides that a premier would be named Friday.



A man and a boy shower in the street after a pipe broke in one of the main streets of Port au Prince. Many Haitians are forced to bathe

"We are waiting," an Information Ministry spokesman said when asked when a new prime minister would be named. "Today? I don't know. The next week, perhaps," the spokesman said.

Political experts have said it was important for Mr. Aristide to quickly name a new prime minister to succeed caretaker Prime Minister Robert Malval in order for Mr. Aristide to demonstrate that he is capable of taking decisive action and is beginning to address the issue of Haiti's recovery.

Sources have said the leading candidate for the post is Foreign Minister Claudette Werleigh, 46.

Ernest Preeg, a former ambassador to Haiti who is now at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said this week that a key test for Mr. Aristide will be "the appointments and the possibility he may delay them for some time, which would

again be a throwback to the way Aristide puts things off."

Mr. Aristide was restored to power last Saturday, three years after he was deposed and sent into exile by a military coup.

Brigadier General Richard Potter, commander of U.S. Special Forces in Haiti, said troops hunting down paramilitary thugs who had gone into hiding after the military regime they supported crumbled had narrowly missed capturing a six-man cell Thursday night near the southern coastal town of Les Cayes.

"We just missed them," Gen. Potter told Reuters shortly before a news briefing. "They know we're after them."

He said this was the third attempt to capture the cell, led by two people known as "Cuba" and "Yellow Eyes," two earlier raids had led to the seizure of 64 weapons, a pickup truck and a car.

Gen. Potter said several dozen paramilitary suspects had split up into cells.

"They are very disorganised. They have gone to ground and their primary motivation is survival," he said. "My view is keep them on the run, keep them worried about survival, and they are not going to worry about doing something to you."

He said some of the suspects have gone into hiding in Port-Au-Prince and others

have fled to the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

Gen. Potter said the break-up of the Haitian military's stranglehold on rural life could be seen in the booming local markets, where people no longer extorted by the military are coming to sell their goods.

"The markets have expanded four, five, six-hundred per cent on market day in the villages and towns where we're located. The price of rice has gone down 40 per cent since I've been here," he said.

Gen. Potter said intelligence regarding the paramilitaries was good, and local villagers were being cooperative in providing information.

9 killed in Athens flooding disaster

ATHENS (AFP) — Nine people died in and around Athens as torrential rains lashed the region, causing damage of "biblical" proportions and bringing a nationwide halt to rail traffic, Greek authorities said Saturday.

Public Works and Environment Minister Costas Laliotis, who visited the scene, said much of the city "looked as if it had been ravaged by a biblical catastrophe."

Much of the damage was caused by the "unplanned" construction of large areas of the capital, he said.

Athens thoroughfares were turned into fast-flowing rivers by the rains which hit Friday, rising to carry off parked cars.

The city authorities set up a crisis committee which advised residents to only make necessary journeys and requisitioned four hotels for

people made homeless in flash floods.

Weather forecasters said the rains were expected to last until Monday.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu called a special ministerial meeting for Monday to deal with the situation and expressed his condolences to the bereaved families.

Officials declared a state of emergency in five districts of

Athens and the northern suburbs, where hundreds of buildings were inundated in torrential rain that triggered landslides and cut off electrical and telephone service.

Armed forces were put on a state of alert and five special military intervention groups, towing fresh water in tanker trucks and backed up by three helicopters, were trying to reach the worst-hit zones.

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Road to Golan breakthrough

THE SYRIAN outcry in the wake of Jordan's completion of its negotiating process with Israel cannot be understood except in terms that its own negotiating process still lags behind. Damascus should have been the first to appreciate the fact that its peace talks with Israel are infinitely more complex since it entails not only more territory but also territory that is strategically located and filled with Jewish settlements. The same goes for Lebanon where the occupied Lebanese territory is held by Israeli troops and the army of its ally in Lebanon.

Rather than regarding the breakthrough on the Jordanian front as an obstacle to Syria's and Lebanon's regaining all their rights, it should be viewed as creating a more favourable climate to conclude similar peace accords on the remaining Arab fronts. In other words the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty could serve as an impetus for further meaningful movements on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts.

Jordanians generally are satisfied with results of the negotiating process with Israel and doubt that a better deal could have been negotiated and agreed upon. Jordan has restored its national rights including its sovereignty over its territories and water resources. The temporary leasing arrangements for some of the affected Jordanian territories should not touch upon the country's sovereign rights in these lands in any shape or form. Certainly we all would have preferred that even this leasing arrangement could have been avoided, but it was a transient modest price for permanent, greater gains.

Needless to say this country is committed to stand by our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the West Bank and will not waver in its solemn pledge to assist them in regaining their full rights in their own lands. Likewise we expect Syria to persist in its efforts to regain full control over all its Golan Heights. Israel can be expected to talk more seriously with Damascus on these issues since that would be the only way that Syria would sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state.

We have said it before and we say it again: without a comprehensive peace accord covering all the parties, the seeds of future conflicts would always be there, ready to grow into instability and uncertainty. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would do well to accept Syria's offer to trade all occupied Syrian territories for total peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS indeed naive to believe that after reaching peace treaties with the Arabs, Israel would abandon the practice of propagating hostile campaigns against the Arabs world wide, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. Saturday, Israel is simply oriented towards fanaticism and racial discrimination against the Arab population and can never give up its Zionist ideology, which calls for expansion of the Jewish state at the expense of the Arab World, said the writer. Referring to anti-Arab demonstrations staged by Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the writer said that the demonstrators had carried placards calling for death to the Arabs at a time when their government is pursuing efforts to sign a peace treaty with the Arab governments. The writer said while the Rabin government claims that it is oriented towards peace, it continues to conduct acts of repression against the Palestinians, totally disregarding the provisions of the Oslo deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The "death to the Arabs" call, said the writer, reminds one of the massacres which the Zionists have committed against the Arab population since 1948.

JIHAD MOMANI, a columnist in Al Ra'i, Saturday pointed to Britain's "evil fingers" behind Washington's determination to maintain the sanctions on Iraq. The United States has allowed itself to be directed by British interests and British opinion in its drive to impose military solutions in the Gulf, said the writer. It is Britain which has been inciting the United States to get involved in hot and cold wars and in being hostile to nations, thus earning itself the wrath of Arabs and numerous other nations around the world, said the writer. Indeed, the British governments have been hiding behind the United States and exploiting American military might to attain selfish interests around the globe, said the writer, adding that the latest exposure of such policy was evident in the encouragement of the United States to go to war with Iraq under the pretext that the Iraqis were moving their forces towards Kuwait.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Arab boycott nearing collapse

IN ITS meeting in Cairo last month, the Arab League was ready to take a decision to lift the Arab boycott of Israel all together if Jordan was ready to make the recommendation. But Jordan declined because it was premature to do so. Now that Jordan is in the process of signing a peace treaty with Israel, it will be ready to initiate the decision in the next meeting of the Arab League. The majority of the members will be more than happy to oblige. The Arab boycott of Israel, which has lasted for 46 years, will be allowed to rest in peace.

However, it should be understood that the removal of the boycott and the normalisation of economic relations with Israel do not necessarily mean an economic union with Israel, or any form of custom union, common market, or a free trade area. Normalisation of economic relations means that Israel will be treated from now on as an ordinary state, just like Turkey or Cyprus, without discrimination of avourism.

On the other hand, the lifting of the boycott does not mean the removal of custom duties applicable to all imports, which are meant to protect domestic production and generate revenue to the Treasury. If customs duties at the current rates are enough to protect Jordanian products from Japanese, German, American, or Turkish products, there is no reason to believe that the same rates of

protection will not be sufficient to protect the Jordanian industry against unfair competition from the Israeli industry, even though it is partially subsidised, being part of an economy which is heavily subsidised by extensive foreign aid.

The Israeli economy is not terribly efficient; wages are relatively high. Without Israeli tariff and non tariff barriers, most of the Jordanian small and medium size industries can compete, with and perhaps overcome, Israeli industry in its own market. Perhaps that is why the Israelis are after normalisation but don't press for Middle East market, which is an American idea.

True, Israeli industry has an edge when it comes to high-tech industries, especially arms, machinery, equipment and some agricultural, scientific or chemical industries. But that will not hurt Jordan, which does not produce such products but import them from Japan, Europe and the United States... Israeli high-tech products will have to compete with similar products of those advanced countries. The chances that Israeli can beat America, Europe and Japan in the field of high-tech are slim, but if it did, there will be no harm for Jordan.

The worries in the Israeli business circles are the same, or even higher than, the worries sensed by the Jordanian

businessmen. Yet Israel will press for an early removal of the economic boycott not only for commercial purposes, but also for political considerations. Normalisation is one way of establishing legitimacy of the Jewish state in the Middle East. The removal of the Arab boycott of Israel means that the existence of Israel is no more challenged by the Arabs. This was always a strategic Israeli goal.

Competition between Jordan and Israel under peace circumstances will not be confined to the field of trade. It will include competition for foreign investments, tourism and the regional offices of foreign companies operating in the Middle East.

Will peace between Jordan and Israel be as cold as the peace between Egypt and Israel. It all depends on the future Israeli behaviour towards Jordan, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Peace will be definitely warmer if Israel demonstrated willingness to abide by the rules of real peace and fair play and abandon its patronising ways.

The government of Jordan can make trading with Israel legal, but it cannot force a Jordanian to import or consume Israeli products. That depends on the mood of the people which will depend on the Israel's behaviour after peace is achieved.

By Dr. Fahed Faweh

King: Foundation of democracy strongly laid on principles of freedom and justice 'Jerusalem remains a trust with the Hashemites who are resolute on its patronage and reconstruction' 'Arab arms should not be used against Arabs'

FOLLOWING is the full text of the speech from the Throne with which His Majesty King Hussein opened the second ordinary session of Parliament Saturday.

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.
Prayers and Peace be upon the truthful Hashemite Arab Prophet and upon his household and companions.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you, in the name of the Almighty Allah and with His blessings, I open the Second Ordinary Session of the 12th Jordanian Parliament. It is a source of satisfaction for me that your honourable assembly is meeting in this favourable climate under which our country is continuing its march towards development and democracy and reaping the fruits of its steadfastness in the face of challenges and storms. Our country has held fast with confidence, and in capability and credibility until our citizens have reached tangible results while waging the battle of peace in defence of the historic rights of this homeland to its land, water and the future of its children. Now, together with the peace makers, they are shouldering their humanitarian responsibilities under United Nations auspices in keeping the peace in several troubled areas of the world. There, they are carrying the image of the Jordanian, who is armed with knowledge, awareness and dignity in a world that is undergoing profound changes causing concern and dictating alertness and vigilance. We should follow up these changes in order to contain their consequences, steer them towards the prosperity and freedom of mankind and to explore the future of our generations with a far-reaching vision that will turn these changes into a light guiding the way of human progress and precluding the exploitation of these changes in a manner that would subject our people to the ambitions, begemony and the exploitation of others.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

One of the meanings symbolised by the convening of this session is the emphasis placed on the need to strengthen the role of Parliament in our democratic process. The foundations of this process are strongly laid on the principles of right, freedom and justice. It is also based on pluralism and the respect of all opinions, free from fanaticism, extremism or inflexibility. The democratic process is gaining ground and becoming stronger day after day. It has become a fact as lofty as the fact of our martyrs and forefathers who faced the difficult times of having to learn, cultivate their soil and fight at the same time. The signs of their patience and toils can be seen all the way from Al-Karameh to Jerusalem. Jordanians have never bowed on the gates of Jerusalem and its holy Al-Aqsa Mosque except to kneel before God or to die as martyrs for the sake of its glory. Jerusalem remains a trust with the Hashemites, who are resolute on its patronage and reconstruction and on the supervision of its holy sites. The Hashemites are doing so out of their loyalty to the nation, because any vacuum which may arise could cause the loss of these holy sites and tampering with the immortal heritage of this nation. Jerusalem will continue to be the most precious place and the jewel of peace. Our relationship with Jerusalem will continue to be larger than is imagined by those who do not know our history in the holy city. It is a relationship based on the Faith, prophecy, history and martyrdom.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

Amman was and still is the convergence point of the Arabs. Thus, our brethren in dear Yemen chose to meet here and sign their document of reconciliation. We have strived to stress the need for dialogue and unity among the

citizens of Yemen. We have done whatever we could to avoid bloodshed in Yemen and rushed to their assistance at the outbreak of the crisis. We are still close to them a time when they are building high the monument of unity and democracy. Amman is also close to the suffering of the brethren in Iraq and is seeking to put an end to the inter-Arab infighting which has caused loss to all the Arab brethren as there was no Pan-Arab solution which we were the first to call for. While we would like to assert our eagerness to alleviate the suffering of any Arab people we would like also to emphasize the right of every Arab state to enjoy its sovereignty and to be secure and stable. We would also like to underline the significance of transcending the past with all its

wounds and to rise up to a new level of inter-Arab political action. This is a prerequisite for enabling Arab countries to safeguard their independence and protect their rights. It is also necessary of enabling the whole Arab nation to be a partner in the new world and to achieve the Arab people's aspirations to freedom, dignity, justice and progress. It is all the more necessary for closing the ranks of this nation and promoting the dignity, freedom and awareness of its generations so that it could occupy its rightful place in this world that is full of challenges and accelerating changes.

Out of the clarity of our Pan-Arab vision and the constancy and durability of the Jordanian position, we have declared that we are absolutely against the use of arms against Arabs under all circumstances. We have also declared that we are against any threat posed by an Arab to another Arab brethren. Moreover, we have reiterated our appeal for dialogue, and declared that Arab arms should not be used against Arabs that Jordan will not hesitate to oppose any Arab party that will violate this principle.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

My government has amended the decision of legal and administrative disengagement between the two banks of the River Jordan to include the Sharia courts and Awqaf departments in the West Bank with the exception of Jerusalem. We have done so out of our eagerness to neutralise the differences which have appeared in the numerous decision and statements of officials of the Palestinian Authority, and

after we have been informed of the harassment of Jordanian officials there. We have declared our full desire to keep the holy sites in Jerusalem under our religious custody which we are doing on behalf of the nation. Jerusalem is the symbol of permanent peace among the believers and the sanctuary of their hearts. We will never relinquish our religious responsibilities towards the holy sites under all circumstances. I thank the Almighty Allah that He has honoured me with this religious and historical responsibility towards the holy sites and gave me the strength to shoulder this responsibility. With the help of Almighty, the third Hashemite construction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock has been completed in the best possible manner. Work is currently underway to reconstruct the Saladdin Pulpit. God willing, we will continue the reconstruction of the tombs and shrines of the Companions of the Prophet in the various parts of the Kingdom. Designs of the first phase of the project for the reconstruction of these tombs and shrines in Al-Mazar Al-Janubi have been completed and the tenders for implementation will be announced soon. Designs are currently being made for the tomb and shrine of the Prophet's Companions, Abu Obeidiah, in the northern Jordan Valley. My government will continue its support for mosques in performing their religious guidance in accordance with the wise principles of Islam as well as the principles of moderation which are characteristic of the Islamic Faith.

"The democratic process is gaining ground and becoming stronger day after day. It has become a fact as lofty as the fact of our martyrs and forefathers who faced the difficult times of having to learn, cultivate their soil and fight at the same time."

We have been eager to provide the proper atmosphere for the encouragement of innovative potential and initiative in our public and private institutions and to achieve justice and balance between rights and obligations, without bias or discrimination in favour of or against any party, group, or sect. Therefore, I have designated my brother, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Hassan Bin Talal, to preside over the Royal Committee for Development and Modernisation to undertake the responsibility of preparing for the new phase. The Crown Prince is known to us and the people for his deep insight and his desire to promote the concept of building an institutionalised state. He is also careful to assert the rule of law and the protection of public funds with no leniency towards any manifestation of dereliction or the exploitation of public office for personal gain.

In this area of reform, I would like to point out that the government is seeking to consolidate administrative decentralisation and to strengthen the role of the executive and consultative councils in the governorates. Four new governorates have been created with an advanced administrative and developmental outlook. My government has created a portfolio of state for administrative development to steer the process of administrative reforms on rational, institutionalised basis. Our objective is to raise the efficiency of the government machinery and to facilitate procedures for citizens when they deal with this machinery. An amendment of the Municipalities Law was issued to enhance local development, to strengthen decentralisation,

and to promote participation in the decision-making process. Sixty four new municipalities have been created, in action to a number of village councils.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

The national economy continued its progress in a firm environment of monetary stability and healthy economic growth coupled with a stable exchange rate of the Jordanian Dinar and the containment of the rise in the cost of living. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 5.5 per cent during 1994. This is the third consecutive year in which the national economy's performance clearly outgrows the rate of population growth. The performance of the national economy was parallel with the objectives of the economic adjustment programme. In fact, the economy's performance was better than the goals set by the adjustment programme in numerous areas. The government deficit was reduced, as well as the burden of foreign debts service. Similarly, the trade deficit was also reduced.

This outstanding performance was the outcome of a series of corrective measures which my government has introduced for the purposes of rationalisation of spending, increasing revenues, maintaining the general level of prices and modernising fiscal and tax legislations in a manner that would be compatible with the requirements of the economic adjustment programme and the requirements of the forthcoming phase. Work is currently underway to amend the customs and income tax laws as well as the laws governing the functions of the Free Zones Corporations. Work is also underway to amend other laws including the encouragement of investment, the regulation of Arab and foreign investments in Jordan, and the Amman stock market aiming at creating the appropriate investment climate that can attract Arab and foreign capital and encourage savings. These amendments will be submitted to your August assembly when they are ready.

Honourable Senators,

Honourable Deputies,

My government is also continuing the policy of relying on local revenues to cover all recurrent expenditures and part of capital expenditures, to recover the real cost of services and commodities, and to restrict government subsidies to people with limited income.

Despite the pressure on the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves as a result of the unstable political conditions in the region, the Central Bank of Jordan has managed to keep and appropriate level of foreign currency and has also managed to rebuild

(Continued on page 7)

King says draft treaty reaffirms Kingdom's central role in region

(Continued from page 6)

Jordan 'will support all our brethren in the other tracks to regain their full rights'

'We have worked for peace in defence of our right'

its reserves to a satisfactory level. These reserves are increasing one month after the other, thanks to the stable conditions in the region and the financial support which my government has managed to obtain. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Jordan has also managed to maintain the stability of the exchange rate of the Dinar.

My government has succeeded in reducing the burdens of servicing Jordan's foreign debt, whether directly by the cancellation of parts of these debts, or through the purchase of some of these debts at high discounts. An agreement was signed with the Paris Club members states and other states to reschedule U.S.\$1340 million. A final agreement was also signed with the London Club of commercial banks to reschedule all due commercial debts amounting to U.S.\$895 million.

My government hopes to continue to implement these economic and financial policies next year as the national economy is expected to continue its growth at similar rates to those attained in the last three years. The government will also continue its efforts to reduce the budget and trade balance deficits, to maintain the general level of prices, and to continue efforts to reduce the burden of the debt. Investment policy will be based on giving a large role to private sector investment and to restructure some state corporations, with a view to subsequently transferring part of their ownership and management to the private sector to improve their performance and to provide the private sector with the incentive to participate in the development of the country.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

My government has sought to achieve the required progress in the areas of education, culture, guidance and information. In the area of education, my government continued to provide the necessary services and to develop educational facilities. It has paid special attention to the construction of comprehensive school buildings. Consequently, the ratio of students in leased buildings dropped to less than 12 per cent, and the ratio of students in schools with a two-shift system dropped to 10 per cent. We have issued instructions to our government to improve the conditions of teachers by allocating a professional allowance for teachers commensurate with their qualifications and achievement. We have also provided the teachers housing fund with a loan amounting to some JD 20 million, and the state treasury will pay the interest on this loan. My government has also completed the implementation of the new curricula, in classes of the basic education phase. However, new curricula in the secondary phase will be completed next year. Furthermore, the government will seek to improve teaching methods, pupil evaluation and general examinations. It is noteworthy that a significant improvement has been achieved in the area of illiteracy for people above 15 years old has dropped to 14 per cent.

In the area of higher education, my government will strive to consolidate the independence of universities and to offer them all the necessary support so as to maintain their distinguished status. The government has improved the conditions of the university personnel. A comprehensive review of higher education is currently underway with the aim of improving its standards and strengthening its association with development needs. Moreover, a study to restructure community colleges is also underway in a manner that would enable graduates to meet the constantly changing needs of society.

It is a source of a great satisfaction that the Al-El-Bait University has begun teaching. It will enhance the bounty that this country has given the nation in view of the fact that it has three levels of higher education and the distinguished scholars who will serve on its staff. We hope that this international Islamic university will receive the necessary support and assistance it needs for shouldering its responsibility towards the rejuvenation of the Islamic mission to the nation and the whole world.



His Majesty King Hussein salutes as the national anthem is played during a ceremony at the Parliament House on Saturday marking the opening of the new session of the legislature (Photo by Yusef Allan)

My government has worked for the care and welfare of youth and the sports. It has completed sports complexes and facilities in a number of cities in the Kingdom. An integrated sports city is currently under construction in Zarqa, and work is underway to launch a centre for the training of sports leaders and instructors. The government will continue work for the completion of the model centres and the revival of the Al Hussein work and building camps to reinvigorate the resources of the young in the building of the homeland.

In the area of culture, my government has enthusiastically supported and activated the cultural movement, provided protection and care for innovators and innovation, and supported writers, artists and literary figures. The number of cultural, theatrical and artistic institutions has increased. My government will seek to complete the draft law governing the functions of the Association of Artists as well as the draft law governing the functions of the Cultural Development Fund. It will also open new cultural centres in various governorates and pay a special attention to the National Library and the Royal Cultural Centre.

In the area of information, my government would like to assert its full support of the freedom of expression in the mass-media in accordance with the provisions of the law and within the framework of respect for the truth, the values of the nation and its immortal heritage as well as the defence of the supreme national interest and the protection of the rights of others, free from all forms of accusation, extortion or instigation.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

My government has continued to develop and expand health services in the remedial and preventive fields. The number of hospital beds in Jordan is expected to reach 2788 by the end of this year. Work is underway on the construction of new government and private hospitals, including the King Abdallah hospital at the University of Sciences and Technology.

In the field of health legislation, ordinances on food and drug safety have been issued. Draft laws on food, drugs and comprehensive health insurance will be referred to your August assembly. My government has referred a draft law on the environment, calling for the creation of an environmental institution to be in charge of approving the environmental policy and providing tax exemptions as an incentive for the protection of the environ-

ment against pollution. My government initiated this year important projects for the protection of the environment, including the project for the protection of the Al Azraq oasis and the Dhana reservation project.

In the field of social development, curbing poverty and improving the conditions of the limited-income groups, my government continued to activate the role of the National Aid Fund and the Development and Employment Fund, to enhance supervision of charitable societies and to support social protection and assistance networks. My government will seek to introduce legislation involving social action, particularly the law on the protection of childhood, and to strengthen family cohesion and safeguard its options.

My government has sought to stabilise the prices of basic foodstuffs within the limits of the approved subsidy, together with ensuring that this subsidy reaches those in need. It has also supported local agricultural production and ensured strategic food-stuff reserves by increasing the storage capacity in various parts of the Kingdom. Silos, warehouses and markets for the Civilian Consumers Corporation are now being expanded.

In the agricultural field, my government has continued the implementation of land reclamation and soil conservation projects as well as projects for the creation of pasture reserves and pits. It has also begun the implementation of a project aimed at increasing food production and another project for diversifying the sources of income of poor families. The government has already extended agricultural loans amounting to JD 8.6 million to 3259 farmers. My government has also subsidised farmers by incurring interest on agricultural loans amounting to some JD 11 million.

In the area of water, and as a result of the imbalance between needs and the available resources, my government sought to locate, develop and utilize new water sources. A project for pumping water from the Al-Hidan area to the Amman and Madaba governorates has been completed. An ambitious plan is currently being implemented to replace the old water networks in various cities of the Kingdom. My government is currently implementing a plan to construct a number of dams, and work on the construction of the Al-Karamah dam has already begun. The studies and designs for the Al-Walsh, Al-Mujib, and Al-Tannour dams are in the process of being completed. Desert dams are being con-

structed by a joint effort with our Armed Forces. Sewerage services are currently being expanded to protect environment, and to safeguard water sources.

My government has continued its persistent efforts to attain further achievements in areas relevant to the service and welfare of citizens. Foremost of these areas is the care for workers and the support of labour trade unions. The government has referred to your August assembly a new labour draft law aimed at achieving further gains to workers and to improve employment conditions. The law takes into consideration the circumstances of the working women and includes agricultural workers for the first

"The draft treaty has affirmed the comprehensiveness of peace on all fronts, and that it should be just and sustainable. It also highlighted Jordan's distinguished role and its significant and central location in the region. The draft treaty emphasised the need to enhance Jordan's security and stability, affirmed its sovereignty, and its national and pan-Arab dignity."

time. My government has also sought to regulate the labour market and to restrain the influx of non-Jordanian workers. It is now working on the creation of an institution for the employment of the labour force as well as on the improvement of vocational training. It is also seeking to enact a law to regulate vocational work and expand the umbrella of social security.

In the area of housing, my government has completed five housing projects in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba with a total capacity of 3183 housing units. Eight housing projects are currently being implemented in Amman, Ein Al-Basha, Salt and Zarqa with a total capacity of 3758 housing units, which are expected to be completed early next year.

My government has completed the opening and asphalted of 350 kilometres of major roads and 150 kilometres of rural roads. It has also opened a large number of agricultural roads and asphalted some of them. Work is currently underway to complete the Al-Zarqa road, the second part of the Irbid-northern Shunah road, and a number of other roads. My government will continue to construct roads, with emphasis on agricultural roads, and to support the construction sector so that it could perform efficiently in carrying out its duties.

In the area of transport, my government is currently making a comprehensive review of the land-transport system to define its needs and regulate it and to renew its fleet. The review is also aimed at the restructuring of the Public Transport Corporation and conducting a feasibility study for the operation of a railway line from Amman to the Syrian border. It is noteworthy that the operational performance of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian has tangibly improved as it carried 1.2 million passengers last year, with revenues reaching JD 30 million. Royal Jordanian's capital was raised from JD 21 to JD 70 million. Work is underway to modernise its

design for the construction of tourist facilities in the Aqaba hot springs in Tafleeh.

In the area of antiquities, my government is conducting a systematic excavation of archaeological sites. There is currently 45 such operations being carried out in collaboration with international missions. Furthermore, the government is carrying out maintenance and restoration works on archaeological sites in each of Petra, Aqaba, Karak, Ajloun, Jerash, Umm Qays, Amman, Umm Al-Jimal, the Umayyid palaces, Islamic castles and archaeological pools.

The government has expanded communication services to include express mail. In this respect Jordan is now linked with over 150 countries. It has also completed the construction of the required postal buildings and offices. The government has also expanded its telephone services, and the number of telephone subscribers has risen to 298,000. Telephone switchboards are being currently installed in a number of cities and villages in various parts of the Kingdom.

My government has focused its efforts on prospecting for oil and gas in the areas of Al-Risheh, the Dead Sea, Al-Sarhan and the northern Jordan Valley. It has referred a tender for the installation of four gas units, one of which is at Al-Risheh, and two steam units are located at the Aqaba Thermal station. It has also referred a tender for the electricity grid project with Egypt, which is part of the grid project linking Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey. As part of the efforts to electrify the rural areas, 433 villages and population centres are now connected. My government seeks to transfer the Jordan Electricity Authority into a public shareholding company owned by the government before the end of this year.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

This is the general picture of fulfilled aspirations of my government and of plans it seeks to implement within a comprehensive outlook aimed at reform and change. While the government has followed up these achievements with determination in all sectors and locations, it has also concentrated on the negotiations process aiming at reaching a just, comprehensive and durable peace based on international legitimacy, a peace which restores our rights fully.

In Madrid, we provided an umbrella to the Palestinian brethren to participate in the conference and to negotiate for the sake of regaining their

legitimate rights to their homeland. You are no doubt aware of the agreements that followed which led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority, in a manner acceptable to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As for us, we continued negotiations on the Jordanian track in accordance with the priorities which we have set for our negotiating delegation. Then came the Washington Declaration as an advanced step on the path that enabled us to regain our rights. This was followed by the transfer of the negotiations to the sites and areas where Jordan exercises sovereign rights over the land and the waters. The negotiations were serious and lengthy. Jordanian negotiators made distinguished patriotic efforts worthy of appreciation and gratitude by our loyal people, who appreciated such achievement which was part of the defence of the rights of the homeland in all spheres. Following the negotiations, my government managed to reach a draft peace treaty with Israel harmonious with the constants that govern Jordan's policy and with international legitimacy. The treaty provides for the restoration of Jordan's full rights to its land and waters, for the delineation and demarcation of permanent international borders between the two states and for exploring the potentials of cooperation in the various fields in accordance with agreements to be reached later.

The draft treaty has affirmed the comprehensiveness of peace on all fronts, and that it should be just and sustainable. It also highlighted Jordan's distinguished role and its significant and central location in the region. The draft treaty emphasised the need to enhance Jordan's security and stability, affirmed its sovereignty, and its national and Pan-Arab dignity. It also affirmed that Jordan should have the opportunity to progress and to develop comprehensively, free from aggression or harassment. The treaty will enable Jordan to tackle its basic issues, particularly those of poverty, unemployment, water and electricity, and will also reinforce its regional and international stature. My government will submit to your August assembly a draft law to proceed with the constitutional procedures for the ratification of the treaty.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

We have worked for peace in defence of our rights and the protection of our generations. We have tried to open

new horizons for progress after a long time after several lost opportunities. We have headed towards the path of peace within national consensus and worked for it in the same spirit in which we fought in the defence of our land and dignity of our nation. We have headed on the path of peace with the same national consensus that prompted Jordanians to spill their pure blood in defence of the homeland and the nation without seeking any personal gain.

We hope that this treaty will herald the beginning of a new era leading to comprehensive peace embracing the entire region... peace that will allow the peoples of the region to find new opportunities for progress and development. We will support all our Arab brethren in the other tracks to regain their full rights. We will continue to be advocates of coordination with all our Arab brethren, always proceeding from our independent Jordanian decision, free from hegemony or the denial of roles.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

We have sought with all our potential to restore Arab solidarity, and declared that we are prepared to transcend the former experiences and events, whether sweet or bitter. We have extended our hands to all our brethren so that our nation could again play its pioneering role in a new world which should surely be based on justice, full equality and the right of people to self-determination on their soil in freedom. We have always believed that we can have a promising future if we close ranks and cooperate for the sake of the Arab and Islamic nation. It is time that this nation rises from its doldrums, and overcomes the stagnation that has affected its progress, as well as the denial listlessness which have afflicted it. Therefore, we will strengthen our relations with the Arab and Islamic states and open the vast horizons of cooperation with friendly countries in the best possible way which would serve our joint interests and help us cope with the circumstances and the requirements of the future.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

This cherished homeland needs the resources of all its citizens. It is a homeland of a mission and a cause. While the circumstances of the Arab nation around us preclude the achievement of an all out Pan-Arab resurgence, we will continue to cherish this ideal. After all, we are the men who carried the banner of the revolution in the name of the Arab nation and fought in various parts of the Arab world on behalf of this nation. We are the men who held fast at the walls of Jerusalem and at the immortal River Jordan on behalf of the Arab nation as well. Our location in the heart of the Arab homeland, our moderation in thought and politics, democracy and human rights have made us a state with a mission. It is a mission that dictates on us the defence of our Pan-Arab identity and our Arab nation in an evident and unique way. In every thing this country strives to achieve, it depends on the credibility of its stands, on the courage in upholding the truth, on the unwavering commitment to principles, and a resolution to maintain an independent position and decision. There can be no turning back on this independence, and our only reference in this connection is the Constitution and the nation, which the Constitution designated as the source of all powers.

**Honourable Senators,
Honourable Deputies,**

I salute you again, and call on you all to embark on further cooperation and hard work. I bless your efforts and march, and beseech the Almighty Allah to protect our beloved Jordan against all evil and to grant our one people to Jordan resolve, determination and love for good deeds. I also implore the Almighty to guide us all on the path that is satisfying to Him, inspired by the words of the Almighty Allah: "I only desire (your) betterment to the best of my power; and my success (in my task) is only come from Allah. In Him, I trust, and unto Him I look."

Peace be upon you, and Allah's mercy and blessing.

إلى الله المرجع

Nations agree to spur Africa leaders say strife, drought wrecked hopes

Third World trade

COLUMBUS, Ohio (R) — Officials from 140 countries agreed Friday on new steps to reform trade practices so the world's poorer nations get a fair share of the wealth to be created by a liberalised world trading system.

They met at a three-day United Nations symposium on how to cut many wasteful steps now inhibiting trade, from tangled and often onerous customs to the inability of businesses in developing countries to find the needed overseas markets for their wares.

Carlos Fortin, the officer-in-charge of the U.N. conference on Trade and Development, or UNCTAD, estimated that once the steps are implemented, traders could save as much \$100 billion a year.

He said a declaration reached at the symposium gave strong political support to find ways to make trade more efficient so the benefits of the newly opening world markets could be shared by industrial and developing countries alike.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown praised the efforts to

spread modern trade-promoting technology to the Third World.

He said via satellite from Washington: "We do not want to see a world divided (by technology) into haves and have-nots."

Mr. Fortin said a key element in promoting trade efficiency was the series of so-called trade points being set up through UNCTAD. At the trade points, computer centres will allow merchants to list their goods for sale on a computer bulletin to be seen by prospective buyers worldwide.

He said banking, insurance and transport information would also be listed, making trade points one-stop centres to buy and sell.

"Information is the key to success in trade," Mr. Fortin said.

Mr. Fortin also said trade points were not expensive to set up if a nation had adequate telecommunications facilities. They just need computers, and modems, easily financed by local businesses, he said.

But he acknowledged it was much more difficult to set up such centres in nations

without modern telecommunications systems. International aid organisations would have to help those countries, Mr. Fortin said.

The delegates also urged international bodies and governments to try to find ways to harmonise some trading practices, such as legal aspects and customs.

Mr. Fortin said there must be global standards so products could easily be identified for pricing and customs, but legal aspects still pose a problem.

"We're still in a situation in which most countries, before you can regard a transaction as finished and binding, you have to sign a piece of paper," he said, posing problems when contracts are agreed to by computer.

Mr. Fortin said some progress had been made in reforming customs procedures in developing countries. He noted that Mauritius and Zimbabwe had reduced export clearance times to two hours from several days, and Colombia and Malta improved their customs efficiency through increased computer use.

GRAND BAY, Mauritius (R) — Finance ministers and central bank heads from eastern and southern Africa said Saturday that a host of acute problems had wrecked hopes of growth in most of Africa.

"Hopes for the reversal of the adverse conditions of the 1980s and a resumption of growth in the 1990s have not been realised in most African countries," they said in a report.

"African countries continue to face acute problems at both economic and social levels that include balance of payments problems, inadequate inflows of foreign capital and long spells of drought which have manifested themselves in economic stagnation," they added at the end of a week-long conference.

They said other problems for their 22 nations included high unemployment and widespread poverty and a rapid deterioration in social welfare, especially public health, education and housing.

"Social conflicts have worsened the problems facing Africa by displacing populations, disrupting economic integration programmes and national development and causing considerable loss of life and other miseries," they added.

Their grim outlook followed a meeting at Grand Bay on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius of the preferential trade area (PTA), formed in 1981 to promote regional development.

PTA Secretary-General Mbingu Wa Mutharika told Reuters that regional trade was still a dismal six per cent of total African trade.

At the urging of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, most PTA countries are implementing reforms aimed at increasing production, economic efficiency and growth.

But delegates added that some reforms had hit vulnerable parts of their societies harshly and urged governments to take steps to protect such groups. Their report did not elaborate.

Secretary-General Mutharika said the PTA finance ministers recognised the need for having a regional framework for external debt management and structural adjustment programmes.

"In a liberalised economic environment within a context of a common market, there is a need for nations to move together. If you subject one country to strict reforms when the neighbours are not doing so, it has an impact on

of civil war ending in 1992. Ethnic strife since last October has made Burundi volatile and talks to end Sudan's 11-year civil war collapsed last month.

Delegates called for political stability in a democratic context — pluralist politics or an agreed national consensus — which they said would flourish in the new world competitive environment.

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"In a liberalised economic environment within a context of a common market, there is a need for nations to move together. If you subject one country to strict reforms when the neighbours are not doing so, it has an impact on

prices, factor movements, parity exchange rates and so on," he added.

A Ugandan delegate said: "African nations must remove bottlenecks like restrictive import licensing, overvalued exchange rates, and restrictions on capital transfers."

"Africans must also promote further the role of the private sector in economic development, build stronger financial systems to support private sector initiatives and accelerate economic cooperation and integration on a regional basis," he told Reuters.

The PTA of eastern and southern African countries was formed in 1982 to boost trade in the region but its task has remained largely unfulfilled as Africans turned to the West and eastern Europe — rather than their own neighbours — for many imports.

Speaking at an open session, Mauritian Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth told African leaders to follow the example of Mauritius in taking concrete steps to push forward regional cooperation.

"Words are not enough in the wake of tremendous challenges in a new world environment," Mr. Jugnauth said.

"We have to come up with comprehensive action plans at every level and we must take a pragmatic approach and evolve elaborate strategies to overcome each and every obstacle in our way of trading," he pointed out.

A delegate said Friday a lack of information about PTA institutions meant private sector involvement in regional trade had slowed.

"Ten years after the establishment of the PTA clearing house many commercial banks still do not know how multilateral clearing arrangements operate," said the Tanzanian delegate.

Meeting in the Ugandan capital of Kampala in November last year, 16 heads of state signed a treaty to transform the body into COMESA — the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Mr. Mutharika told Reuters he was still waiting for an 11th member state to ratify the treaty before it could be implemented.

"We hope the 11th member can manifest itself soon so that a summit called for Dec. 8 and 9 in Mlongwe, Malawi, can take place effectively," he said.

The original goal of COMESA is creation of an economic community by 2000.

Poverty increases risk of death from AIDS — study

LONDON (R) — Poverty reduces the survival rate in patients with AIDS and men on low incomes have a 65 per cent greater chance of dying within 10 years than those on higher incomes, a Canadian study published on Saturday said.

The Canadian research team, led by Professor Martin Schechter of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, studied 364 gay men for 10 years from November 1982.

At the start of the study, 234 were HIV positive and 130 subsequently became infected with the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

"The researchers found that men on low incomes at enrolment had a worse survival than those on higher incomes," the study published in Saturday's edition of the Lancet Medical Journal.

"Men on low incomes had a 65 per cent greater chance of death from AIDS by December 1993 (the end of the study) than those on higher incomes," the study said.

The researchers defined a low income as less than Cana-

dian \$10,000 (\$7,500) a year. They said that at the beginning of the study, the poverty level for a single man living alone in metropolitan areas of Canada was below \$9,400 (\$7,050).

Of the study group, 169 men developed full-blown AIDS and 135 men died during the 10-year study. "There were 40 deaths in the low income group (90 men) and 95 deaths in the higher income groups (274 men)," the study said.

Because low-income men tended to be younger than higher earners, the researchers adjusted their data for age but the link between low income and survival rates held true.

The study did not reach conclusions about why low-income patients might be more susceptible to death from AIDS but it speculated that nutrition might play a part.

"One suggestion is that nutrition mediates between socio-economic status and HIV-associated mortality because immune function is affected by nutrition — often poor in low-income groups."

SAMA rules out Saudi riyal devaluation

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor Hamad Saud Al Sayyari Saturday ruled out a devaluation of the Saudi riyal and asserted that any attack by speculators on the riyal could be withstood.

Asked if SAMA, the kingdom's central bank, would devalue the riyal, he said: "No, not at all."

Mr. Sayyari, speaking to Reuters during a financial conference in Kuwait, also said spending discipline by the Saudi government was encouraging and successful.

Speculation against the riyal this month, due to concerns over the Saudi economy and government finances because of weak oil revenues, depressed its spot value and boosted riyal-dollar swap rates.

The speculation has lessened but dealers say they expect more attacks against the currency as the year end approaches, when the government prepares its 1995 budget.

Asked if SAMA would be able to withstand an attack on the riyal, Mr. Sayyari said: "Yes, I am confident of that."

CIS leaders approve first supranational body

MOSCOW (R) — Leaders of the 12-member Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Friday approved plans for a supranational economic committee, the first CIS body that will have real powers to override members' governments.

President Boris Yeltsin told a Kremlin news conference the Interstate Economic Committee (MEK) was approved by all 12 heads of state, though some had reservations about the extent to which they would take part.

The new body will be based in Moscow, a decision taken despite the objections of Belarus, whose capital Minsk was initially designated as the seat of CIS institutions when the organisation was set up at the end of 1991.

"Of course (Belarusian President Alexander) Lukashenko insisted very strongly on Minsk," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Heads of state also approved plans for a payments union and a customs union, but details were not available and it appeared some members had reservations.

The CIS has been largely ineffectual as a successor to the Soviet Union because governments, jealous of their newly won sovereignty, have been unwilling to delegate powers to it.

"There wasn't complete unity of views on everything. There were discussions, objections and compromise decisions," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Not all states are equally ready to take part in economic union although all voted for it."

"But this should not be seen as some kind of split or crisis in the CIS. We fully respect the will of each individual state," he added.

The Russian president said there was a long discussion on the supranational powers that would be delegated to the MEK, and the leaders agreed that states which had reservations would be able to opt out. "Later we will see how it goes," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin, the only head of state at the news conference, did not say which states had reservations but last September, when the Interstate Economic Committee was drafted by heads of government, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan did not initial it.

"Of course there were doubts among some about the MEK, there were different opinions about where it should live, in Moscow or in Minsk but finally we agreed the MEK was needed," he said.

The committee will have a weighted voting in which Russia will count for 50 per cent of the votes and deci-

sions will have to be taken by a majority of 80 per cent.

Mr. Yeltsin said he was happy with the summit because not a single item had been dropped from the agenda. Among the documents approved was a convention on the protection of "persons belonging to national minorities."

Russia has been pushing strongly for such a convention to protect the rights of more than 20 million ethnic compatriots in other CIS republics.

The idea has been supported by Kyrgyzstan, which is trying to prevent local Russians leaving, but some other states have been unenthusiastic, seeing such a convention as a means for Moscow to increase its influence.

No details of the accord were available, but its title suggested the accord would be on protection of the rights of individuals rather than on collective political rights for ethnic minorities.

Mr. Yeltsin praised Ukraine's new President Leonid Kuchma for his contribution to the summit. "It was a completely different atmosphere than with the previous president," he said, referring to frequent clashes with Mr. Kuchma's predecessor Leonid Kravchuk.

"There were no problems. There was complete agreement between us and Leonid

Danilovich Kuchma made some very informed remarks. He supported all the documents," Mr. Yeltsin said.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan got only a cool welcome for his proposal for a Euroasian union of states.

"We all studied this very carefully. However we all came to the conclusion that this is perhaps a good idea, but premature."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This would be a good day to spend around the house attending to minor details and seeing that things that you feel are important get accomplished. You won't have to go out at all unless you just want to.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take a little trip which could help you to take care of responsibilities more easily and pay bill more readily. Take some time for meditation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A change of attitude can gain you the good will of others. Don't take up a debatable point with your mate or there could be trouble occurring.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go along with your partner's unusual ideas. Avoid a fellow associate who could be a nuisance to you today and create problems you do not need.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your home is your best bet today since outside affairs could lead you in the wrong direction. Do some reading and relaxing.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take no risks with anyone who lives under your roof. Think about how to have better relations with your partners and close friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use much care in motion of all kinds. Improve monetary affairs so there is some for the future. Study letters well before you answer them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to look for modern items which can help to streamline your existence. Wait until tomorrow to solve difficult money matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your ideas are good, you feel limited, so you should consult with an advisor who can be of assistance. The spend time with the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A private anxiety can keep you from seeing good friends. Engage in conversations which are educational and provide you with the right answers.

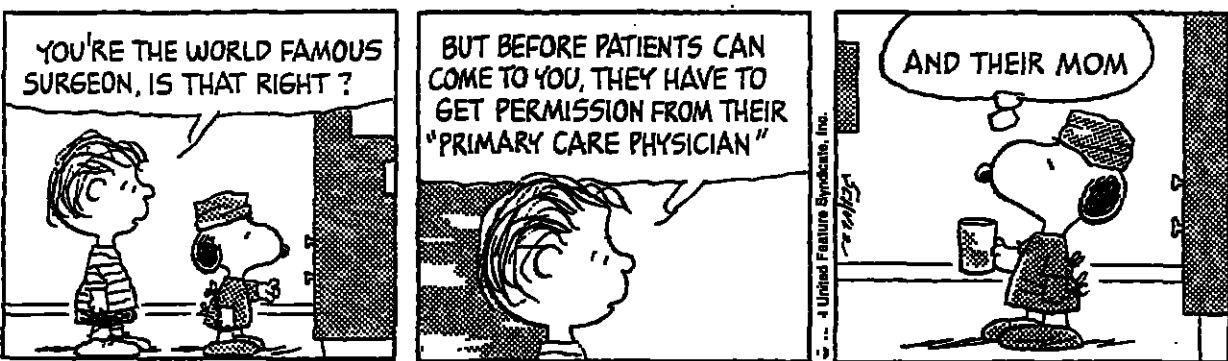
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate on worldly affairs and avoid friends who can be depressing at this time. Show more thought for your friends and loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Avoid one who has power over your affairs. Engage in wise conversations with an expert. Don't aimlessly roam about town and don't take any unnecessary risks.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is not a good day for travel or making any drastic changes. Plan to keep promises you have made to others. Any risks you take could be disastrous.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUNTS
GUAVE
HOCCUR
GARUJA

Those phones never stop!

WHAT THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR WAS AT THE END OF THE DAY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SHEAF SCOUR BLOUSE TREMOR
Answer: Where home remodelers learn their trade — AT "RE-FORM" SCHOOL

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- 1 Soothing ointment
- 3 Aardvark's treasure
- 9 A mythical king
- 14 Hodgepodge
- 15 Deserter's designation
- 16 Curly hair
- 17 Bewildered
- 18 Carry
- 19 Curly hair
- 20 Sleeping soundly
- 23 Waller ball
- 24 Pilot pro
- 25 Bugle call
- 26 Minor
- 31 Bus
- 34 Also known as
- 35 Rippling agent
- 36 Potter's material
- 37 Key words
- 40 John Wayne, to pals
- 41 Furred
- 42 Copper blade
- 43 Lined measures: abbr.
- 44 Hippo
- 45 Mammals
- 46 Wine word
- 47 Hodgepodge's price
- 48 Absentious
- 55 Best of
- 56 Burden
- 57 Endure
- 58 Stripped beast
- 60 Feed the fity
- 61 La Douce
- 62 The
- 63 Fortneter
- 64 Proof of ownership
- 7 Speech
- 8 Kind of bargain
- 9 Sales of
- 10 License
- 11 Ban
- 12 Med. sch. subj.
- 13 Part of PSP
- 21 Imprecise
- 22 Scottish
- 24 Part of PSP
- 25 Past due
- 26 Spoken
- 27 Clock cluster
- 28 Gate strings
- 29 Concur
- 30 Kernel
- 31 Candidates' list
- 32 Heavy-hitting
- 33 Henna users
- 35 Sale phrase
- 36 Footbeat
- 37 Dense
- 38 Bar's partner
- 44 Tape
- 45 Foot beam
- 46 Tompress
- 47 Rapidity
- 48 Wily response
- 49 Scar on
- 50 Ah me!
- 51 Having one's senses
- 52 Enger
- 53 Royal address
- 54 Sooms
- 55 Heat means
- 56 Stopping

Puzzle solved:

ACROSS: 1. Ointment, 3. Armadillo, 9. King Arthur, 14. Medley, 15. Desert, 16. Curly, 17. Bewildered, 18. Carry, 19. Curly, 20. Sleeping, 23. Waller, 24. Pilot, 25. Bugle, 26. Minor, 31. Bus, 34. Also, 35. Rippling, 36. Potter, 37. Key, 40. John, 41. Furred, 42. Copper, 43. Lined, 44. Hippo, 45. Mammals, 46. Wine, 47. Hodge, 48. Absent, 55. Best, 56. Burden, 57. Endure, 58. Stripped, 60. Feed, 61. La, 62. The, 63. Fortneter, 64. Proof, 7. Speech, 8. Kind, 9. Sales, 10. License, 11. Ban, 12. Med., 13. Part, 21. Imprecise, 22. Scottish, 24. Part, 25. Past, 26. Spoken, 27. Clock, 28. Gate, 29. Concur, 30. Kernel, 31. Candidates, 32. Heavy, 33. Henna, 35. Sale, 36. Foot, 37. Dense, 38. Bar's, 44. Tape, 45. Foot, 46. Tompress, 47. Rapidity, 48. Wily, 49. Scar, 50. Ah, 51. Having, 52. Enger, 53. Royal, 54. Sooms, 55. Heat, 56. Stopping.

Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/20/94	New York Close 10/17/94
British Pound	1.6315	1.6260
Deutsche Mark	1.4927	1.5003
Swiss Franc	1.2385	1.2490
Japanese Yen	5.1185	5.1390
European Currency Unit	97.05	97.24
	1.2748	1.2753

Banking Interest Rates
Data: 22/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.68	5.25	5.56	5.81
British Pound	5.31	5.75	6.18	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.00	5.31
Swiss Franc	5.62	5.93	6.06	6.43
Japanese Yen	5.31	5.46	5.71	6.21
European Currency Unit	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.56
	5.50	5.87	6.02	6.50

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Data: 22/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
British Pound	1.1208	1.1264
Deutsche Mark	0.4598	0.4621
Swiss Franc	0.5521	0.5549
Japanese Yen	0.1341	0.1346
French Franc	0.7092	0.7127
Italian Lira	0.4101	0.4122
Spanish Peseta	0.0449	0.0451
Belgian Franc	0.0449	0.0451

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Data: 22/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.8180	1.8320
British Pound	0.040645	0.042235
Deutsche Mark	0.1830	0.1850
Swiss Franc	2.3180	2.3700
Japanese Yen	0.1885	0.1912
French Franc	0.2000	0.2180
Italian Lira	1.7810	1.8000
Spanish Peseta	0.1873	0.1890
Belgian Franc	0.2765	0.3180
Cypriot Pound	1.4515	1.5345

Israelis travelling to Jordan can now buy foreign currency

The Jerusalem Post

THE BANK of Israel yesterday (Thursday) announced changes in foreign currency regulations which will enable Israelis crossing the Jordanian border to purchase their foreign currency travel allotment.

Under current regulations, residents travelling abroad are required to produce flight or cruise tickets in order to be able to receive up to \$3,000 in foreign currency from the bank for their trip.

Only those travelling to Egypt by ground are entitled to the full foreign currency travel allowance. By contrast, those crossing at Taba will still only be able to take out NIS 4,000-worth of foreign currency, while those travelling to Sinai will only be allowed to withdraw up to \$150.

Residents travelling to Jordan will have to present their bank with either a travel agent's certification that they have purchased a ticket for an organized trip by ground or an entry visa.

The change is to become effective Sunday.

Next month, the foreign currency travel allowance will be raised to \$7,000.

Turks want joint ventures; Jordanians eager for exports

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of Turkey's business community started a two-day meeting with Jordanian businessmen in Amman Saturday and offered to launch joint investment projects with Jordanian counterparts and to market products in neighbouring states.

The offer was made by Serif Egeli, co-chairman of the Turkish-Jordanian Business Council, who currently heads a 70-member delegation for talks with Jordanian businessmen and officials.

Underlining the importance of the coming peace era,

Mr. Egeli said the two sides ought to benefit from the atmosphere of peace and launch joint ventures in industry and trade.

Stressing the important role of the private sectors in Turkey and Jordan to help promote economic and trade ties, Mr. Egeli said that joint ventures can be launched in the two countries which can then serve as a launching pad for marketing the products in countries neighbouring Jordan and Turkey.

Hamdi Tabbaa, chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) told the meeting, attended by

Jordanian businessmen, that the balance of trade was heavily in favour of Turkey, and asked that efforts be made to adjust it.

According to Mr. Tabbaa, Jordan's potash exports to Turkey were stable but phosphate exports witnessed a decline in the past few years despite Turkish promises to the contrary.

He said that the Turkish-Jordanian Business Council had agreed at its 1992 meeting that Jordanian mineral exports would increase to adjust the trade balance but nothing has happened to date.

Noting that the Middle East region was at the threshold of a new era characterized by peace and stability, Mr. Tabbaa said that major investment opportunities were expected to present themselves to the businessmen in the two countries.

Earlier, the Turkish-Jordanian Business Council held a meeting and explored prospects for joint ventures in industry and trade.

The JBA had said that Turkey's total exports to Jordan last year were worth JD 58.44 million while Jordanian exports to Turkey stood at JD 12.5 million.

Free trade pact with Jordan will hurt their exports, Israelis say

The Jerusalem Post

THE FINANCE Ministry's plans to rapidly sign a free trade agreement with Jordan comes at the expense of industrialists and exporters, Yoram Belizovsky, managing director of the Manufacturers Association, charged yesterday (Thursday).

Mr. Belizovsky reacted to the position the Ministry of Finance is taking in ongoing negotiations with Jordan on the free trade agreement.

The manufacturers claim the Finance Ministry is willing to make major concessions to Jordan on major issues related to industry and exports because of the country's political situation and the economic gaps between the two countries.

Mr. Belizovsky said Israel's exposure to other countries like Turkey, Poland, Hungary and Canada are likely to suffer as a result of the Finance Ministry's compromises.

He urged the Finance Ministry to adopt the Industry and Trade Ministry's principles in negotiations to reach free trade agreements.

Mr. Belizovsky said the Ministry's proposal for a free trade agreement between Israel and Jordan is based on mutual principles which are not harmful to Jordanian industry.

The ministry proposes to subject export from Jordan to Israel to low customs, even in fields which are harmful to local industry.

According to Mr. Belizovsky, the Finance Ministry regards Israel's exposure to exports as an instrument for fighting inflation instead of as a lever to encourage trade with Israel.

A Treasury official said that Mr. Belizovsky was conducting a rearguard action on behalf of Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, who called last week for mutuality in a trade agreement with

Jordan, even though the sides have already agreed on a differential approach which will allow the Kingdom to gradually open its market to Israeli exports.

Treasury officials pointed out that the trade proposals agreed by both sides were drafted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and that Mr. Harish was attacking his own proposal. An official interpreted Mr. Harish's outburst as an effort to assert his control over the negotiations.

Shortly after the Peres-Majali-Christopher meeting off the Jordanian Dead Sea shore last July, Israel and Jordan agreed to pursue a non-discriminatory trade policy. Under the proposal, Israel would grant Jordan the same status as a country which has not signed a trade agreement with Israel, a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trade status. Taking into account the fact that Jordan's economy is not as developed as Israel's, the

Kingdom would be given a certain period by which time they would have to open their market to Israeli goods.

Under that arrangement, Israeli exports will face higher tariffs than Jordanian exports. However, given the non-discriminatory nature of trade, Israeli goods will not be subject to higher tariffs than other countries' goods exported to the Kingdom.

The sides still have to agree how long a transition period Jordan will be granted until Israeli exports are given the same treatment as Jordanian exports. Jordan's original proposal was a period of 10 to 15 years, which Israel rejected as too long.

A Treasury official criticised Mr. Harish's calling for equal treatment, saying that a trade agreement with Jordan is essential to the country's economic integration in the region.

Lebanon, Cyprus sign cooperation agreement

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus and Lebanon have signed a cooperation protocol for the expansion of their political and economic relations.

The protocol was signed by Faris Bouez, the first Lebanese foreign minister to visit the island, and his Cypriot counterpart Alecos Michaelides.

Mr. Bouez, who was accompanied by a group of businessmen, arrived Thursday on a three-day visit to the island, which lies less than 200 kilometres off the Lebanese coast. His visit was at the invitation of Mr. Michaelides, who visited Lebanon in August.

Mr. Bouez said the signed protocol "is the first step that will open the way for more and more specialised declaration and marks the starting point of a new relationship between our two countries."

He added that during his meeting with Mr. Michaelides and President Glafcos Clerides earlier in the day "we had very important discussions and agreed to expand bilateral cooperation on a diplomatic level."

He added that "Lebanon is committed to the integrity, sovereignty and the unity of Cyprus. We have more than a common point which will push us to cooperate on this."

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third in July 1974 in the wake of a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece. Lebanon has a strip of land along its southern border under Israeli occupation since 1982.

Both countries are pressing for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the foreign troops from their territory. After the meeting with Mr. Clerides, Mr. Bouez said that in the light of the Arab-Israeli peace process, Lebanon and Cyprus "have a common interest to organise our future relations in this new era."

He said the two countries were bound by their "common history, geography and culture" as well as commitment to democracy and free economy.

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Wihdat maintain lead after tie with Hussein

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although the results of the eighth week of the first division soccer championship did not yield any changes in the standings, it nevertheless witnessed some firsts in results and points of most teams.

Al Wihdat maintained the lead scoring their first draw of the season when their match against second placed Al Hussein ended in a 1-1 tie.

Al Ramtha suffered their first defeat losing 1-0 to Al Ahli Al Wihdat are now the only team with an unbeaten record.

Meanwhile, last placed Al Karmel earned their first point after managing a 1-1 draw with Al Qadissieh.

Over 15,000 fans attended the week's most important match between Al Wihdat and Al Hussein at Al Hassan stadium in Irbid, where both teams played cautiously trying to avoid a defeat that might affect their standings.

Al Hussein were first to score by Mohammad Shweir in the 30th minute.

Wihdat fans demanded that the coach call in striker Jihad Abdul Mun'em, and they were not disappointed as Abdul Mun'em converted a free kick to score the equaliser in the 75th minute. Minutes later his younger brother Hisham and teammate Jamal Mahmoud lost scoring chances as Al Hussein's brilliant goalie Khalid Irshaid saved his team from a definite loss.

In another match, titleholders Al Faisali barely managed a 3-2 win over 10th placed newcomers Shabab Al Hussein.

Striker Jiryes Tadros opened scoring from a header in the 27th minute, but Shabab Al Hussein equalised in the 44th minute from a pen-

ty kick in the 44th minute. The 71st minute goal that gave Shabab Al Hussein their 2-1 lead seemed to be reason enough for the titleholders to change their lacklustre attitude and attack more seriously.

Tadros equalised from a penalty kick after he was tackled in the 73rd minute, and teammate Ja'far Hamad netted in Al Faisali's winning goal from a powerful shot in the 83rd minute.

Al Ramtha lost their first match after a surprising 1-0 defeat to Al Ahli who are still in a disappointing eighth place.

The match, attended by over 5,000 fans, was crucial for Al Ahli whose players seemed determined to win as Husam Hammash, Nart Yadaaj, Amer Wali and Mousa Shreyan put up a concerted effort in their attacks during the first half.

Goalie Ahmad Abu Daoud was instrumental in preventing at least two Ramtha goals by Mouaffaq Abu Heib and Mansour Azaizeh.

Al Ahli's captain Nart Yadaaj scored the match's only goal when he converted a corner kick in the 55th minute.

Meanwhile, Al Jazireh held on to their advanced fifth place when they scored a convincing 4-0 win over 11th-

placed Al Jeel. They opened scoring in the 9th minute. The following two goals were scored two minutes apart in the 33rd and 34th minutes.

A penalty kick in the 72nd minute gave Al Jazireh their goal and improved their scoring record.

At Al Mafrag Stadium, Kufroum and Al Arabi maintained their halfway 6th and 7th standings after a 1-1 draw.

Ayman Al Omari's header gave Al Arabi an early lead when he scored in the 12th minute.

Newcomers Kufroum avoided defeat when they scored the equaliser in the 79th minute.

Meanwhile, Al Karmel finally earned a point in the standings after managing a draw with Al Qadissieh who further disappointed their fans after failing to score a win.

Al Qadissieh lost many chances before striker Mustafa Adam netted in the goal that gave them the lead in the 10th minute.

Though reeling with a fragmented defence, Al Karmel improved during the second half and their fighting spirit paid off with the important equalising goal from a header by Nizar Shamekh in the 73rd minute.

Standings after 8th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	8	7	1	—	11	2	15
Hussein	8	6	1	1	25	10	13
Ramtha	8	4	3	1	15	4	11
Faisali	8	4	3	1	16	6	11
Jazireh	8	4	1	3	14	7	9
Kufroum	8	4	1	3	17	17	9
Arabi	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Ahli	8	3	2	3	11	13	8
Qadissieh	8	1	3	4	10	15	5
Shabab Al Hussein	8	1	1	6	12	23	3
Jeel	8	—	1	7	4	19	1
Karmel	8	—	1	7	3	21	1

Russeifa promoted to 1st division

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Russeifa's players and fans celebrated the conclusion of the second division soccer championship following their 2-1 victory over Al Qoqazi which secured their promotion to the prestigious first division in the 1995 season.

Three other teams, Sahab, Al Jalil and Al Baqaa, had earlier ensured their promotion and will play alongside the Kingdom's top 12 teams next year.

Despite Al Qoqazi's loss, Zarqa residents had reason to celebrate since at least one of the governorate's teams made it to the first division.

Al Russeifa scored their victory in extra time after the match, held at Al Zarqa Stadium, ended in goal-

less draw.

Al Russeifa's goals came in the 98th and 105th minutes. Though Al Qoqazi scored a goal later on, Al Russeifa held on to their lead and ended the match with a precious win.

Sixteen teams had taken part in the competition, with the top four securing promotion and the last four being relegated to the third division.

Sahab won the second division trophy with 24 points in the overall standings, followed by Al Jalil with 21 and Al Baqaa with 19, while Al Russeifa and Al Qoqazi had tied with 18 points thus warranting a deciding match.

Sahab and Al Baqaa had last played in the first division in the 1993 season, but were relegated alongside Yarmouk-Amman and Al Fuheis who have finished sixth and eighth and thus

remained in the second division. Al Jalil and Al Russeifa will be playing in the first division for the first time.

The four teams to be relegated to the third division are Salt, Abbasi, Sahm and Ja'far Al Tayyar.

This week Salt and Abbasi clubs lodged an official complaint with the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) stating that both clubs had been victims of last minute agreements and (match rigging by) other teams that led to their "unfair relegation."

Meanwhile, JSF treasurer this week announced that the profit from ticket sales of the competition's matches had amounted to just over JD 7,000 which would be distributed among the competing teams. Division champions Sahab will receive a JD 1,000 bonus.

Rominger shatters record

BORDEAUX, France (R) — Switzerland's Tony Rominger shattered the world one-hour cycling record Saturday by covering 53,832 kilometres in a superb display of power and strength.

It beat the previous world mark of arch-rival Miguel Indurain of Spain who covered 53,040 kilometres on the same track last month.

Rominger's achievement was all the more surprising as he had made no special pre-

parations and was riding an ordinary road time-trial bike while Indurain had trained especially for the event and had used a special bicycle.

Rominger has raced only in time-trials since he was forced to abandon last July's Tour de France, which Indurain won for the fourth consecutive time.

He had said Saturday's attempt was merely a test run ahead of a proper bid next month at altitude in Mexico City or Quito.

Rominger covered the first five kilometres 16 seconds faster than Indurain had managed and steadily improved on the Spaniard's marks throughout the one hour.

It was the fourth consecutive successful bid for the record on the Bordeaux track. Briton Chris Boardman covered 52,713 kilometres last April.

Boardman and Indurain have also said they would tackle the record again, probably in Mexico next year.

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Nottingham Forest's Stuart Pearce

NHL labour dispute negotiators talk about scheduling of season

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Bettman and Bob Goodenow, the main negotiators in the North American National Hockey League (NHL) labour dispute made contact Friday for the second time in two days after a long period of silence.

"They talked mainly about scheduling," said Steve MacAllister, public relations director of the NHL Players Association.

But not about setting up new bargaining talks.

"There is nothing going," Goodenow, executive director of the NHLPA, told the Canadian press in Toronto.

Bettman, the NHL commissioner, and Goodenow spoke Oct. 11, when the owners rejected the players' last contract proposal.

Bettman delayed the 84-game season's Oct. 1 start to try to push the contract talks ahead. The players have been without a contract since September 1993. Revenue sharing to help small market teams and a cap on players' salaries are at the centre of the dispute.

The league conceded Thursday it will not be able to salvage the complete 84-game schedule.

The NHL is reportedly working on a 74-game schedule. The schedule will be re-evaluated on a daily basis, the league has said.

Bettman has said the league would need at least a 40- or 50-game schedule to have a legitimate season. To play a 50-game schedule, the NHL would have to start by mid-December.

While players hoped that contact negotiations would resume quickly, they continued to find employment in the wake of the longest work stoppage in NHL history. A total of 115 games have already been postponed as the lockout reached its 21st day Friday.

Turnout defenceman Dave Ellett, a two-time NHL all-star, was close to signing a deal with the Wichita Thunder of the Central Hockey League.

"The biggest reason for him to come here is to help coach the younger players," Thunder spokesman Phil Bloom said of Ellett, a veteran of 10 NHL seasons including appearances in the all-star game in 1989 for Winnipeg and 1992 for Toronto.

Ellett's signing would represent a breakthrough as the first established NHL player to play in the minors during the wake of the labour stalemate.

Marty McSorley, the Los Angeles Kings' forward-defenceman, was close to an agreement with the Las Vegas Thunder of the International Hockey League, but backed off.

Meanwhile, foreign players continued to move. The latest is the New York Rangers' Alexei Kovalev, who joined a Russian team that is currently making an exhibition tour of the CHL. Thursday night, Kovalev had four goals and three assists as Lada beat the Thunder 12-1. The Rangers' star is reportedly mulling a return to Russia while the players are locked out.

Nikolai Borshchovsky of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Robert Reichel of the Calgary Flames are among the latest to return to Europe — Borshchovsky to Russia and Reichel to Germany.

Reichel became the second NHL player to join the German Ice Hockey League and will make his debut for the Frankfurt Lions this weekend. The Czech-born Reichel led the Flames last season with 40 goals and 53 assists. Bruins forward Josef Stumpel returned earlier this week to his old club, the Cologne Sharks.

UEFA grants berths for fair play

ZURICH (R) — England, Norway and Luxembourg were each awarded one additional entry in the UEFA Cup next season for fair play, the UEFA executive committee ruled Friday.

In a communique published after a meeting in Zurich, the committee said the three associations had "distinguished themselves on the field with sportsmanlike conduct" and headed the "first ever UEFA fair play ranking list."

England, whose clubs were banned from UEFA club competitions for five years after the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985, had three teams in the first round of the UEFA Cup this season. Norway and Luxembourg both had one.

But UEFA have decided that after 1997-98, League Cup winners may only be nominated for UEFA Cup.

inclusion through that tournament if the national association concerned has limited their domestic championship to a maximum 34 matches.

The decision only affects England, who have 22 teams in the premier league, Spain and France, who have 20 sides in their respective first divisions.

England, Spain and France have until the 1997-98 season to comply with the rules and reduce their leagues to 18 teams. England will reduce to 20 clubs next season but there are not believed to be any plans for further reduction.

The committee also allowed France to stage from next season a new league cup, the winner of which may take part in the UEFA Cup.

Meanwhile, UEFA said it would ask for 16 places to be awarded to European teams in the World Cup finals in France in 1998.

UEFA's executive committee confirmed the position adopted at a meeting of European soccer's governing body in Stockholm last month.

"The committee's view is

that, in addition to the host country (France) which qualifies automatically, 15 other teams should represent Europe in world football's flagship competition," the committee said in a statement.

The number of teams taking part to the World Cup finals is to be increased from 24 to 32 in 1998 and Europeans, who had seven teams in the quarterfinals of this year's tournament in the United States, want three of the additional eight berths.

A decision is to be taken by FIFA, soccer's world governing body, at a meeting in New York next week.

UEFA's stand will be opposed by the African and Asian confederations. Both want two more places for their own teams and only two more for European sides.

The South American confederation is in favour of one more berth for each confederation — Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and CONCACAF — and wants the top three teams from the U.S. World Cup, Brazil, Italy and Sweden, to qualify automatically.

Newcastle keep up the pressure

LONDON (AFP) — Premiership leaders Newcastle cast aside European blues to maintain their five-point gap at the top Saturday.

Kevin Keegan's team, narrow 3-2 UEFA Cup winners over Athletic Bilbao in midweek, grabbed a 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday at St. James' Park.

The Magpies grabbed two goals in as many minutes through Steve Watson and Andy Cole — his 14th of the season — in the first half. But Ian Taylor pulled one back for the Hillsborough side.

Nottingham Forest's Stuart Pearce, with a penalty after just 35 seconds, put them on their way to a 2-0 win at Aston Villa. Less than a minute after the start, Earl Barrett pushed Dutch international Bryan Roy to allow Pearce to fire Forest ahead.

Then Steve Stone shot through a crowded defence in the second half to put the result beyond doubt. Forest are three points ahead of third-placed Blackburn, who host champions Manchester United Sunday.

Manchester City were the biggest winners of the day, hitting five past Tottenham Hotspur in a 5-2 win.

The Maine Road side got off to a flying start, with Paul Walsh putting them ahead after 15 minutes against his former club.

Spurs levelled on the half with Andy Dibble, sent off last week at QPR, tripping Jurgen Klinsmann to allow Romanian international Ilie Dumitrescu to equalise in the 57th minute.

But Niall Quinn restored City's advantage on 37 minutes, and Walsh put City 3-1 ahead in the 45th minute.

Just after the break, Dumitrescu hit his second after being put through by Klinsmann, then Steve Lomas headed home to put City 4-2 ahead. However, man-of-the-match Walsh beat four players on the left, before passing to Gary Flitcroft who finished well.

Liverpool, largely through their youngsters, grabbed a 3-0 win against Wimbledon at Anfield.

Steve McManaman broke the deadlock after 20 minutes and then set up England under-21 team-mate Robbie Fowler for the second after 35 minutes. Then, after the break, John Barnes slid home his third goal of the season.

In six-goal spree, Norwich beat QPR 4-2. Londoners QPR, now with four defeats in their last five games, felt the absence of suspended England striker Les Ferdinand.

QPR broke the deadlock through Simon Barker to take the lead at Norwich in the 14th minute. But Mark Robins, Welshman Mark Bowen and Mike Sheron, with his first league goal, hit back for Norwich after the break.

Kevin Gallen put Rangers back into it in the 62nd minute, but, moments later, QPR's Devon White turned the ball into his own goal from a Mark Robins shot.

West Ham beat Southampton 2-0 at Upton Park. Martin Allen broke the deadlock four minutes after the break, rifling the ball into the roof of the net. Then Matthew Rush slide home after being put through by Tony Cottee.

Bottom club Everton had a miserable trip against Crystal Palace, going down 1-0.

Riedle fires Borussia Dortmund title hopes

BONN (AFP) — Borussia Dortmund's Karl-Heinz Riedle gave their German championship a major boost as he scored in their 1-0 victory over Bayern Munich.

And the scoreline, which puts Dortmund two points ahead of Werder Bremen who play at Kaiserslautern Sunday, gave credibility to Ottmar Hitzfeld's comments.

The Dortmund trainer said: "We getting as good as Bayern in all respects. They have their most successful era behind them. And the only thing which separates us from Munich is a title."

It was also welcome revenge for Dortmund's Andreas Moller, who was dumped by Munich in the pre-season, when he thought the deal was virtually sealed.

At the bottom of the table, Munich 1860 had a stunning 4-0 victory — their first of the season — over Freiburg, who dropped from third to seventh spot.

Rudi Voller and Hans-Peter Lehnhoff were on target for Bayer Leverkusen, who are in third, two points behind Bremen, following their 2-0 win at MSV Duisburg.

Brazilian World Cup winning captain Dunga scored the final goal for sixth-placed VfB Stuttgart in their overwhelming 4-0 win over Karlsruhe. Axel Kruse and Fredi Bobic scored before the break, and a Ludwig Koegl penalty and Dunga's 82nd minute goal completed the win.

Poland's Jan Furtok and Ghana's Anthony Yeboah scored for midtable Eintracht Frankfurt in their 2-0 win over Dynamo Dresden.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Azerbaijan to play 'home' games away

ZURICH (R) — Azerbaijan will not be allowed to stage European Championship qualifying matches at home because of the state of emergency in the former Soviet republic, UEFA said Friday. The ban will be enforced "until the situation changes there." Azerbaijan compete in Group One with France, Romania, Israel, Poland and Slovakia.

Kasparov to take on diplomats

ZAGREB (AFP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov is to challenge the ambassadors of America, Russia and Britain, respectively Peter Galbraith, Leonid Kerestjedjants and Gavin Hewitt, in a 25-board simultaneous display in front of Saint Vlaho Church in Dubrovnik Sunday. In addition to the Zagreb-based envoys, Kasparov will take on the mayor of Dubrovnik, Nikola Obuljen, and local players in an exhibition aimed at raising funds for humanitarian action in this ancient city still suffering from post-war trauma, the Croatian news agency Hina reported.

Ghana, Ivory Coast to play friendly

ABIDJAN (AFP) — A year after an inter-club football match between teams from Ghana and neighbouring Ivory Coast degenerated into deadly riots, the two clubs are meeting again this weekend to prove the hatchet is well and truly buried. The match bringing together ASEC of Abidjan and Asante Kotoko of Ghana's second city Kumasi will be played Sunday, while two youth national teams meet the same day in Kumasi. "We want to make a peace of the brave and prove to the entire world that we can again face one another on a football field without passion overtaking reason," ASEC boss Roger Ouegnin told AFP Friday. In October 1993, dozens of Ghanaians were killed during a match at Kumasi in the African Champions Cup. After Ivorian players and supporters complained they had been the targets of violence in Ghana, a veritable "hunt the Ghanaian" orgy of attacks broke out in Ivory Coast leaving 25 dead according to the Ivorian authorities, double that figure according to the Ghanaians. Most of the dead were lynched. The African Football Confederation (CAF) reacted by suspending clubs from the two countries from any continental competitions.

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Senna was killed by blow to skull — report

ROME (R) — Ayrton Senna was killed by a piece of his car which punctured the visor of his helmet and fractured his skull when he crashed at the San Marino Grand Prix in May, Italian Radio reported Saturday.

An autopsy has shown a two-centimetre perforation above the three times world champion's right eyebrow where the fragment struck him, the report said.

Part of the suspension and the right front wheel of Senna's Williams car sheared off and was thrust into the cockpit when the Brazilian hit a wall at the Tamborello curve at Imola, the report added.

The causes of the crash are being investigated by magistrates in the central Italian city of Bologna. They were not available for comment Saturday.

The Italian Radio said that

Senna otherwise suffered only bruising to the back and would have survived had the fragment not struck him.

The report said that a broken steering column was believed to have caused the crash and that further tests would be carried out at an Italian aeronautical laboratory next week to establish whether this was the case.

Two French newspapers, citing a preliminary report ordered by Italian justice authorities, reported in August that a broken steering column was probably to blame.

Austrian Roland Ratzenberger died during practice for the San Marino Grand Prix, the day before Senna's fatal crash.

The deaths, the first at a Grand Prix meeting for 12 years, provoked an intense debate about safety standards in the sport.

Kamo to replace Falcao

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Football Association has asked Yokohama Flügels manager Shu Kamo to head the national team replacing Brazilian manager Paulo Roberto Falcao, Japanese news reports said Saturday.

"It is 99 per cent certain that Kamo will accept our offer," Saburo Kawabuchi, a senior association official, was quoted as saying by the daily Mainichi Shimbun.

However, it was uncertain if Kamo, 54, could take over

immediately when Falcao's contract expires next month, as his contract with the Flügels runs until January.

Japan's two most recent national team coaches came from overseas — Marius Hans Ogt from the Netherlands and Falcao — and Kawabuchi indicated there may have been a communications gap between them and the players.

Kawabuchi, who is also chairman of the professional J-League.

Atlanta asks citizens to help with hosting

ATLANTA (AFP) — Atlanta residents are being asked to house relatives of athletes in their spare rooms in anticipation of a shortage of hotel space during the 1996 Olympic Games.

Atlanta HOST, a group that represents 28 Christian denominations, is working with games sponsor AT and T to set up a bed-and-breakfast network for families of up to 10,500 competitors.

Most of Atlanta's hotel space during the games will be used to house Olympic officials, media and spectators.

"I don't think we could pull this programme off in a large number of cities in the country, but Atlanta has ingrained Southern hospitality," said Bill Blair of AT and T. "It's a way for people to get much closer to the games and feel like they are more involved."

Residents who participate in the programme will be asked to provide free lodging and breakfast and limited transportation for up to eight days.

Blair said details of the programme will be presented to Olympic officials when the IOC executive board meets in Atlanta in December.

The volunteer programme may be undercut by the games organising committee (AGOC), which is offering homeowners from \$972 to \$2,754 to rent a spare room for three weeks.

Agassi continues to dominate in Vienna

Agencies

ANDRE Agassi extended his domination of the CA Trophy tennis tournament Friday, looking fit, loose and happy as he beat sixth-seeded Andre Gaudenzi of Spain, 6-0, 6-3, to reach the semifinals.

The third-seeded American, in his first tournament since winning the U.S. Open six weeks ago, continued solid baseline play that saw him delight the crowd Thursday with a 6-0, 6-0 drubbing of Australian Mark Woodforde.

"I couldn't be playing better right now, but I hope to even get better," Agassi said. Two of his main contenders struggled to advance in the \$410,000 indoor tournament.

Top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia — Agassi's scheduled opponent in the semifinals — was nearly upended by unknown Arne Thoms of Germany, just surviving a 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1) marathon.

And Michael Stich, the no. 2 seed, was pressed hard both by jeering fans and a feisty Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands before managing a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 win.

Despite firing 24 aces, Ivanisevic found himself in a battle to stay alive with Thoms, ranked 160th in the world. He had to recover from 6-5 deficits in each of the final two sets.

"I for sure did not underestimate him," Ivanisevic said. "But that's how our sport is today. From a point of view, the number 160 can beat you. It's just a matter of routine and self-

confidence that helps you. That is the difference between the no. 2 and a player like Thoms."

Stich, the world's no. 3, had an equally trying time eking out a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 win against Siemerink.

Stich said his headache interfered with his serves, along with whistling and hooting from the Austrian crowd. "I simply, completely cannot understand why these people whistle," he said. "The people here have a dark side."

The going could get tougher in the semifinals when he faces Austrian Thomas Muster, the no. 4 seed. Muster looked solid Friday in defeating his Czech opponent, Petr Korda, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0.

Though Muster is the local favourite, the flamboyant Agassi clearly is winning fans with his antics. At one point Friday, he delighted the crowd at the Indoor Vienna Stadthalle Arena by checking with them instead of the linesman on a close call.

In an interview picked up by the public address system afterward, he praised help he has received from practice partner Brad Gilbert.

Chesnokov springs Russian surprise

In Lyon, big-serving Russian hero Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who spearheaded his country's historic Davis Cup semifinal victory over holders Germany last month, crashed out of the \$600,000 ATP Tournament here late Friday when he was beaten by a player who failed to make the team.

Moscow-born Andrei Chesnokov, 28, who was not included in the Russian squad which scored the 4-1 victory over Germany in Hamburg because of a string of disappointing results, showed all of his old flair to chalk up a surprise 5-7, 7-6 (7/0), 6-1 win.

Ranked number nine in 1991 but now a modest 44th will now face former world number-one Jim Courier for



Andre Agassi

a place in Sunday's final. Courier, the fourth-seed, found the going far from easy against stubborn Frenchman Lionel Roux and he needed to win a third-set tie-break to clinch a place in the semifinals. The American finally clinched a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/3) victory.

The other semifinal will be between top-seeded Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine and Switzerland's Marc Rosset.

Medvedev dropped only three games against seventh-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia, while Rosset snatched an exciting 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/4) win over third-seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

Krajicek topples Bruguera

In Hong Kong, Dutchman Richard Krajicek survived a mid-match scare before beating French Open champion Sergi Bruguera to advance to

the semifinals of the exhibition tournament here.

Defending champion Krajicek suffered a terrible mid-match lapse in concentration before recovering to serve himself out of trouble with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 win.

Krajicek will now meet world number one Pete Sampras, who continued his tennis rehabilitation with an easy 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Dutch doubles specialist Paul Haarhuis.

The other semifinal will see world number five Stefan Edberg take on Todd Martin of the United States.

Novotna closes on Brighton crown

In Brighton, England, Jana Novotna took another convincing step towards retaining the £50,000 Brighton International crown Friday with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over unseeded Katerina Maleeva. In a high-quality quarter-

final Novotna repulsed a spirited challenge from the world number 40.

Novotna, who reached a career-high world ranking of number 4 after winning the Leipzig title last month, forced the only break of the first set in the seventh game and she served out to love three games later to clinch her 1-0 lead in style.

By contrast, the second set featured six breaks. Novotna surrendered her serve twice, on the first occasion with three double faults.

Novotna said: "She didn't give me one ball for free. I had to work hard for every point, but I expected a tough match because she is a tough competitor."

In an event shorn of many stars, including top seed Conchita Martinez, Novotna admitted that the absence of Steffi Graf made her life easier: "It is unfortunate for me that every time I am playing well in a Grand Slam I have to play Steffi and to beat her is always much harder for me."

Novotna's Czech compatriot, unseeded Helena Sukova, booked a semifinal clash with Larisa Neiland after inflicting a 6-4, 7-5 defeat on Nathalie Tauziat, of France. Neiland put out top-seed Conchita Martinez of Spain Thursday.

Steffi back from injury

Meanwhile, it was announced in Berlin that Steffi Graf is to start training Monday after five weeks rest because of a back injury, her father Peter said here Saturday. The German world number one plans to play in Philadelphia, USA, from November 7.

Graf pulled out of the Mixed Masters in Sarrebruck, Germany, in September — where she was to have partnered compatriot Michael Stich — after suffering back pain.

She was also out of the WTA tournament in Zurich earlier this month.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK ♠86 ♠AK8763
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—If partner has a diamond stopper, nine tricks should be there at three no trump. The way to inquire is to bid three spades now. That can't be a real suit—you would have introduced a four-card holding at your previous turn—so it simply advises partner not to fear a spade attack. With no diamond control, partner can revert to either four clubs or jump to game.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q86 ♠AQ762 ♠8 ♠Q73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What action do you take?
A.—Did you think we were trying to trick you? For shame. You have an unbalanced minimum and, despite the fine quality of your heart suit, you can do no more than show a six-card suit by rebidding two hearts.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ8 ♠A105 ♠73 ♠AKQJ7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You rightly valued this hand as being too strong for a one-no-trump opening bid. Now you have to choose between four rebids each of which misdescribes your holding: three clubs, two no trump, three spades or the one we would choose as the least of peccadilloes, a reverse

of two hearts. This is a one-round force, so when you support spades next, partner will know you have only three trumps.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK ♠AQ76 ♠KJ93 ♠J6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
What action do you take?
A.—Despite the fact that partner could not act over one heart, the balance of power could still belong to your side. To advise partner of your desire to compete for a part-score, redouble now to show your strength.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠76 ♠KJ10 ♠J1095 ♠Q1097
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
A.—This is simply a matter of hand evaluation. Wooden point counters would tot up the seven high-card points, conclude there's no chance for game and pass. But all those intermediates are surely worth one point (more likely two or three), so we recommend an invitational raise to two no trump.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠KQ95 ♠KJ4 ♠AK985
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a five-loser hand which revalues to 19 points in support of hearts. No matter how poor partner's response, there must be play for game. Jump to four hearts. Splitter bidders have the perfect hand for a jump to three spades to announce spade shortness en route to game.

Amman Little League

Following are results of games played on Friday October 21, 1994 and the standing up to Oct. 21, 1994.

Aramex	Vs	Sunquick	0/0	Tied
Koch	Vs	Arab Medical Containers	2/0	
Jamco	Vs	JWM	1/0	
Al-Hikma	Vs	Sipes	1/0	
Gharras	Vs	Ahlia-Abella	3/0	
UPS	Vs	Gulf Agency Co.	0/0	Tied
G.E.M.T	Vs	Ayoubi Steel Factory	1/0	
C.C.C.	Vs	American Kitchen	3/0	

Final standings up to Oct. 21

Seniors			
1	American Kitchen	7	
2	British Airways	3	
3	C.C.C.	2	
Mids			
1	Steel Factory	8	
2	G.E.M.T	8	
3	U.P.S.	5	
4	Gulf Agency Co.	5	
Juniors II			
1	Al-Hikma	11	
2	Gharras Blinds	10	
3	Ahlia-Abella	4	
4	Sipes	2	
Juniors I			
1	Adritec	10	
2	Jamco	7	
3	JWM	6	
4	Forum Furniture	5	
5	Paintex	2	
Tots			
1	Koch	13	
2	Aramex	7	
3	Sunquick	4	
4	Arab Med. Cont.	3	

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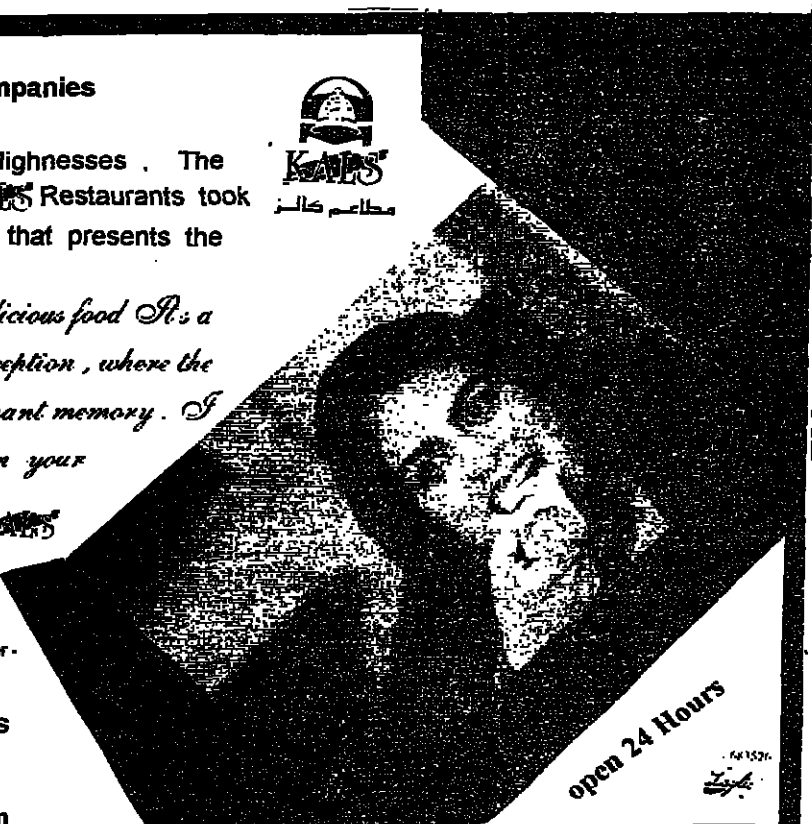
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Yusra, Safiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah..in Al Muhajer (Immigrant)	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Robert Davi, Jane Severance & Jack Scallia ... in Criminal Intent	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" CRUSH Shows: 3:30, 5:15	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

Clinton hopes to spur Israel-Syria negotiations

Hariri says trip may advance talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton hopes to spur Israel and Syria towards a peace treaty when he meets with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during his Middle East trip this week.

At a White House news conference Friday, he said he hopes the visit will give momentum to the piling peace talks between the two countries.

"I want there to be more progress," Mr. Clinton said in announcing he would go to Damascus next Thursday. But some aides were pessimistic about prospects for a breakthrough.

At their first meeting, last January in Geneva, the Syrian leader offered Israel the prospect of "normal peaceful relations."

But five shuttle trips to the region since by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher have failed to produce a compromise on three tough issues: Peace terms, the future of the Israeli-held Golan Heights and arrangements for security at the border.

Mr. Christopher and top aides have described their achievements as only incremental. The president said he was going to see Mr. Assad because "talking with him we will continue to make some advances" in the negotiations.

But some senior Clinton aides voiced doubt his seeing Mr. Assad again would transform the slow-moving process.

The more modest goal is to use Mr. Clinton's visit "to give the process a push," said one aide, briefing reporters at the White House on condition he would not be identified.

Mr. Clinton's other main objective is to reassure Israel after a wave of violence has shaken its people's confidence that the landscape is truly changing. The president said he wanted above all on the trip to "stand with my friends."

And Mr. Clinton said he had directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to redouble its scrutiny of activities in the United States in behalf of Hamas, the group that claimed responsibility for killing more than two dozen Israelis in a week's time.

The trip, designed initially to celebrate conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, is shaping up as even more extensive than the five-country trek that President Nixon made to the area in June 1974.

Mr. Clinton will visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia over three days. He also will meet in Cairo with Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and other religious sites in East Jerusalem despite concerns for his security.

On Friday he visits U.S. troops deployed in Kuwait, then flies to Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi King Fahd before returning to Washington.

Mr. Clinton will talk to King Fahd about the Gulf countries setting up a fund to repay the United States for the deployment of forces in the wake of the recent Iraqi military buildup near Kuwait and to make preparations for a permanent defence line in the region.

The president's national security adviser, Anthony

Lake, said in a speech Friday at Harvard University that the Gulf operation showed "the American people are not so averse to the use of force as some might think."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said Saturday East trip may help push forward a peace settlement between Syria and Israel.

Such progress, he said, "will have positive consequences for Lebanon," where Syria has 40,000 troops stationed as peacekeepers.

Mr. Clinton's visit "is a clear American admission of Syria's central role in the Middle East peace process," Mr. Hariri told the Associated Press.

It also proves that the United States "knows that it is impossible to have peace without Syria and Lebanon, which are key parties to the conflict," he said.

"It is possible that Clinton's visit will help push forward the peace negotiations and such progress is certain to reflect positively on Lebanon," he said.

About the recent escalation of hostilities between Israeli forces and pro-Iranian Lebanese guerrillas in South Lebanon, Mr. Hariri said: "It is clear that the Israeli government is in a bind domestically after the Tel Aviv incident. Therefore, it is trying to divert its people's attention by creating another problem on the border with Lebanon."

"It is trying to make Lebanon pay the price for an incident it has nothing to do with," the said of Wednesday's bus bombing in downtown Tel Aviv in which 21 people were killed and 48 wounded.



PARLIAMENT CEREMONY: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday inspects a guard of honour mounted at the Parliament House on the occasion of the

opening of the new regular session of the legislature (Photo by Yousef Allan)

PLO to tell Israel not to hold up talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-rule authority will tell Israel at a liaison committee session that peace efforts must not fall hostage to attacks like the Tel Aviv bus bombing, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Saturday.

"We will object to Israel's hesitation in implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord by threatening to halt peace talks every time Hamas carries out attacks in Israel," PLO negotiator Hassan Asfour said, referring to the meeting due on Sunday.

PLO top negotiator Nabil Shaath and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will lead their delegations to the joint liaison committee meeting in Cairo on Sunday.

The committee was set up under the Israel-PLO peace deal in 1993 to deal with disputes arising between the two sides.

"The accord established mechanisms to deal with problems, and freezing the peace process is in itself a violation of the agreement," Mr. Asfour told Reuters.

Israel broke off talks, on Palestinian elections and expanding self-rule to the rest of the West Bank, after the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas kidnapped an Israeli soldier two weeks ago.

Israeli leaders said at first the soldier was being held in Palestinian-run Gaza. The soldier, killed by his captors during an Israeli rescue raid, was in a part of the West Bank controlled by Israel.

Last Sunday, Israel said it was prepared to resume talks and lifted the closure it had clamped on Gaza and the West Bank.

It scaled off the two areas again on Wednesday after a Hamas suicide bomber killed 21 people on a Tel Aviv bus.

"Israel's policy of collective punishment is very dangerous from a political point of view. It means Israel still considers self-rule areas under its occupation," Mr. Asfour said.

He said the PLO would not respond to Israeli demands to crack down on Hamas.

"Hamas does not threaten us. We know how to deal with it in our ways in our territories. We are responsible for security in self-rule areas," Mr. Asfour said.

Members of parliament (MPs) on Saturday called for a barrier to be built the entire length of the "green line" between Israel and the occupied West Bank to keep out Palestinian activists.

The barrier would be aimed at "making the partial closure of the territories permanent," said Hagai Merom, regarded as a "dove" in the Labour Party.

He said Hamas members were able to enter Israel via dozens of open crossing points even while the West Bank and Gaza Strip were sealed off.

"Patrols would be carried out along the barrier. This is the only way to totally separate Israelis from Palestinians," Mr. Merom said.

Mr. Merom said the barrier would be "an emergency plan to separate Israel and the Palestinians."

"I hope it will lead to the creation of a Palestinian state. The two peoples should be able to live inside their own borders," he said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel Radio Saturday that the closure of the territories could "never be permanent."

"The police are demanding reinforcements along the green line to reduce the risks," he added.

Iraq upholds right to move its troops

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Saturday it would uphold its right to deploy troops in the country's south despite U.S. warnings to restrict military movements.

Parliamentary Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh also reiterated that Iraq was ready to recognise neighbouring Kuwait, but demanded an easing of United Nations sanctions in exchange.

Mr. Saleh told a news conference that the U.S. warning was a gross interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The United States and Britain made diplomatic representations to Iraq's U.N. ambassador on Thursday warning Baghdad of "serious consequences" if it moved well-equipped Republican Guards south of the 32nd Parallel towards Kuwait.

Asked if Iraq would ignore the warning, Mr. Saleh said: "Do not say ignore. We will uphold our rights."

"Our conduct, military or civilian conduct, in our territory does not constitute any threat to any neighbouring country," he said.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Humud Al Sabah was quoted Saturday as saying U.S. military reinforcements sent to counter the Iraqi buildup near the border will not leave before threats from Baghdad are eliminated.

"The U.S. and friendly forces will not leave Kuwait before the danger is totally over," he told the daily Al Watan.

He said the situation at the border with Iraq was "completely quiet," but that Kuwaiti forces dug in there remain on alert and ready to face any emergency.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Friday that Iraq had almost completed withdrawal

of its troops from near the Kuwaiti border, but U.S. forces will maintain their current strength in the region for the moment.

"The immediate threat is receding, the withdrawal above the 32nd Parallel is nearly completed," Mr. Clinton said.

But he said the U.S. troop strength in the region would be maintained at its current levels "for a while."

Asked if President Saddam should be overthrown, Mr. Clinton said: "My position is that we should keep the pressure on that regime as long as it is out of compliance" with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

In Baghdad, Mr. Saleh also said the Arab-Israeli peace process pursued by the United States, marked by President Clinton's high profile Middle East tour next week, would create instability in the region.

"We think it is an erroneous policy," Mr. Saleh said.

"We think it will drag the whole Middle East into greater problems and lead to instability. That is definitely not in the interests of the United States or of the region itself," he said.

A buildup early this month of an estimated 80,000 Iraqi troops near the border with Kuwait — which Iraq invaded and was driven from in the 1990-91 Gulf conflict — brought the region to the brink of a new crisis.

The troops withdrew after the United States sent thousands of its soldiers to the region. But President Saddam Hussein succeeded in turning the international spotlight on Iraq's demands for an easing of the sanctions.

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat will not attend Jordan-Israeli treaty signing

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's government decided Saturday to boycott Wednesday's signing ceremony of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, a senior official said.

At the weekly cabinet meeting of his government in Gaza, Mr. Arafat ordered Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) foreign affairs chief, to turn down an invitation from Jordan to the signing.

A Palestinian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Arafat has not been invited to the ceremony, to be held on the Jordanian-Israeli border with President Bill Clinton attending, the AP said.

The Palestinians have criticised the treaty because it

assures a special role for Jordan as guardian of the Muslim holy places in East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as their future capital.

Mr. Arafat has called the pact an "outrageous infringement" of his accord with the Israelis whereby negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem will only begin in mid-1996.

In Amman, King Hussein vowed Saturday not to relinquish Jordan's special religious role in Jerusalem as set out in the peace treaty.

"Jordanians have never bowed on the gates of Jerusalem and its holy Al Aqsa Mosque except to kneel before God, or to die as martyrs for the sake of its glory," the King said.

"Jerusalem remains a trust with the Hashemites, who are resolute on its patronage and reconstruction and on the supervision of its holy sites," he added.

"We will never relinquish our religious responsibilities towards the holy sites under all circumstances."

Musa to attend signing

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Saturday accepted an invitation to attend the signing of the historic peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, the Jordanian ambassador said.

Nayef Al Qadi, quoted by the official Egyptian news agency MENA, said he extended the invitation to Mr. Musa and the foreign minister accepted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shimon Peres to visit Morocco next week

RABAT (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will visit Morocco next Friday to inaugurate the office of Israeli interests, the government news agency MAP reported. Mr. Peres will be accompanied by several ministers when he opens the office in the Moroccan capital of Rabat, the report said. He will have several meetings with Moroccan officials on cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Peres' visit will come two days before the opening of the three-day Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca, an hour away from Rabat by train. About 120 Israeli companies will be taking part in the conference with specific projects they hope to develop with Morocco in agriculture, tourism and crafts.

French mosque leader expelled to Morocco

METZ, France (AFP) — The imam of the mosque at Woippy in eastern France was deported to Morocco within hours of his arrest after a government decree said he was a danger to France, official sources said Saturday. Abdellah Habboun had made anti-French and anti-government statements, against integration and respect for French social norms, they said. He was arrested at his home near Metz early Friday under the decree ruling his expulsion was an urgent necessity for French national and public safety.

Iranian delegation postpones Iraq visit

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iranian delegation has put off a planned trip to the Iraqi capital Baghdad, an Iranian embassy source said on Saturday. The delegation was scheduled to arrive on Saturday to prepare for a visit to Iraq by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. "The delegation is not arriving today. There has been some change," the source said. He said a new date had not been set for the visit but talks were being held with the Iraqi side. He did not elaborate.

Feuding Afghans kill 45 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A ferocious rocket duel between faction leaders in Afghan capital killed 45 people, mostly civilians, hospitals said. Friday's battle was the latest in a two-year power struggle that has ruined Kabul and killed more than 15,000 people. In just the last month, according to the International Committee for the Red Cross, 17,000 people have been injured in factional fighting. There was no death toll, although hospitals in Kabul say hundreds have died.

Floods kill three in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A mother and her child and a 12-year-old boy drowned in flash floods that swept Iran's northern Mazandaran province, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. Most of the towns and villages along the Caspian Sea coastline were flooded as a result of torrential rain over the past 48 hours. Hundreds of livestock and poultry were wasted, added the agency. IRNA said floods also hit the southern province of Kerman, sweeping away more than 80 kilometres of rural roads in the vicinity of the town of Baft 240 kilometres north of the Strait of Hormuz.

New radical paper appears in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A newspaper representing Islamic radicals appeared on Iranian newsstands this week aimed at promoting political pluralism. In its first editorial, the bi-monthly Asr-e-Ma (Our Era) said it supported the formation of political parties in Iran in a bid to encourage "broader participation" in politics. There are no organised political parties in Iran, although the country's constitution explicitly recognises the right to form them. The paper, founded by former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati, said it also sought to raise important issues in the areas of politics, economics and social affairs.

Lebanon, U.N. condemn Israeli use of 'dart shells'

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanon informed the U.N. Security Council on Saturday about Israel's use of a deadly new type of shell to bombard the southern town of Nabatiyeh, officials said.

Lebanon's permanent representative to the Security Council, Samir Mubarak, said Israel used "a particularly deadly type of weapon which killed five and wounded four" in Wednesday's attack.

Beirut may lodge a protest with the Security Council, officials added.

The commander of U.N. forces in Lebanon has asked the U.N. secretary general to protest to Israel over its use of banned anti-personnel shells in the region.

In a report sent to U.N.

headquarters on Friday, General Trond Furuhovde complained that Israel had used "aerial dart" shells, banned under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said.

Gen. Furuhovde heads the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), established in 1978 and consisting of 5,250 soldiers from 10 countries.

The UNIFIL commander said a position of the Irish contingent in the village of Barasheet "was hit last week by this type of weapon," Mr. Goksel said, adding there were no casualties.

"General Furuhovde strongly protested to Israel against this aggression," Mr. Goksel said.

American tourist attacked

AMMAN (Agencies) — A man attacked and slightly wounded an American tourist here Saturday, just four days before U.S. President Bill Clinton visits Jordan for the signing of its peace treaty with Israel, police said.

They said the tourist, named as Dave Friedman, 24, tried to run away from his assailant but was "scratched in the back." He received treatment in hospital and was released.

A traffic policeman and a guard at the nearby Amman

police station caught the assailant, 27-year-old Raed Ismail.

The U.S. embassy had no comment on the incident.

President Clinton is scheduled to visit Jordan on Wednesday to witness the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

The stabbing was the first such reported incident since several attacks on tourists following the killing of about 30 Arabs by an Israeli settler in Hebron in the occupied West Bank last February.

Seoul cautiously welcomes Pyongyang nuclear deal

SEOUL (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo on Saturday cautiously welcomed the U.S.-North Korean nuclear deal, although he said South Korea was not totally satisfied.

"Some of its contents fall short of our expectations, but overall the deal reflects our minimum policy goals," Mr. Han said in testimony before the National Assembly.

In a pact signed Friday in Geneva, North Korea agreed to freeze its nuclear activities, but it was also given at least five years before it will have to allow special inspections at two suspect nuclear sites. In recent years, the U.S. says North Korea repeatedly reneged on treaty obligations to allow such inspections.

"The special inspections will be delayed more than we expected," Mr. Han said.

But South Korea praised its communist rival's agreement to allow the thorough special inspections for the first time since it threatened to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) almost two years ago. The treaty bans the spread of nuclear arms and makes inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) obligatory.

The North maintained that allowing thorough inspections at the two sites, which they claimed to be non-nuclear military facilities, would infringe on its

sovereignty. It also claimed a "special" North Korean status that exempted it from thorough investigation.

"Now it is most important for North Korea to faithfully uphold its obligations under the new deal," Mr. Han said at the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee.

He said the new, safer reactors promised to North Korea in Friday's deal would be designed by South Korea, which would play a major role in their construction. But he added that Seoul would not help compensate for the energy lost by decommissioning the North's older reactors, which produce nuclear weapons ingredients.

"The government has not been consulted by the United States on the question of providing compensation energy (to North Korea) or discussed the matter," he said.

A foreign ministry spokesman quoted Mr. Clinton as telling a news conference in Washington on Friday: "South Korea, with support from Japan and other nations, will bear most of the cost of providing North Korea with fuel to make up for the nuclear energy it is losing..."

But the ministry spokesman said: "President Clinton's statement on providing compensation energy to the north ... is far from the fact."

COLUMN 800000

State Department papers found on airport taxiway

NEW YORK (AP) — A briefcase full of papers reportedly detailing the secretary of state's upcoming visit to the Middle East with President Bill Clinton turned up, open, on an airport taxiway. The briefcase had been checked through baggage onto a flight out of John F. Kennedy Airport by Dolores Hicks, an aide to Mr. Warren Christopher. "We have not seen the contents of the lost bag and cannot speculate or confirm what they might be," State Department spokeswoman Julie Reside said Friday. The bag had been opened, she said. A department official who spoke on condition of anonymity said it was unlikely the bag contained sensitive documents, because department policy is to carry those, aboard, not to check them. The case included Mr. Christopher's Middle East itinerary, New York Newsday reported. Mr. Clinton leaves for the Middle East Tuesday. While he's planning to visit Saudi Arabia, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait, decisions on his stops during the three-day visit are being made with an eye on security amid the recent outbreak of terrorist violence in Israel. The Daily News reported that papers blowing across the taxiway included references to computer programmes, blank State Department letterheads and notes on what Mr. Christopher likes for breakfast. The bag was found Wednesday night when a pilot reported debris on the taxiway. Newsday's unidentified Port Authority Police sources said. The Port Authority, which runs the city's airports, would not comment.

Survivors make good on dinner promise

STOCKHOLM (AP) — In the panicked final moments as the ferry Estonia was sinking, passengers Kent Harstedt and Sara Hedrenius promised to have dinner together if they survived. Then they hurried themselves into the frigid waters of the Baltic Sea. On Friday night, three weeks after the tragedy that killed more than 900 people, Kent and Sara kept their promise. At a candle-lit restaurant in Stockholm, the couple toasted their survival over dinner. "I feel as if we are bringing this ordeal to an end with this dinner. Tomorrow we can continue ahead," Kent, from the southern city of Lund, told Swedish television. It was one of the few happy endings to the worst shipwreck in Scandinavian history. Both survivors had ended up in the same life-raft and hugged each other for hours to keep warm while icy waves crashed over them. Ten of their raft mates froze to death before rescuers arrived. "Even if I was there, struggling in the waves, today it all seems like a dream," Kent said in an interview. News media, publishers and movie producers from all over the world have contacted Sara and Kent over the last weeks to hear their story. There was no word on what the couple would do next.

New microwave light bulb brighter, cheaper

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A new type of light bulb that blasts gas with microwaves produces a bright light at a cost far less than conventional bulbs, the Washington Post reported Friday. The lamp, invented by Fusion Lighting Inc. under a Defence Department contract, is the first commercial application of the new process. The light bulb is a golf-ball-sized quartz globe filled with a sulfur-tinged inert gas that when irradiated by microwaves produces as much light as hundreds of high-intensity mercury vapour lamps, the department was quoted as saying. It uses fewer than 12,000 watts but puts out four times as much light as about one-third the cost, the department said. The first uses of the Rockville, Maryland, company's lighting system probably will be for large outdoor and indoor spaces such as shopping centres, factories and aircraft hangars, the daily said.

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